

P A P E R S

RELATING TO THE

AFFAIRS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY,

1831-32.

(*Mr. Hyde Villiers.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,

21 May 1832.

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P A P E R S

RELATING TO

THE AFFAIRS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

— No. 1. —

COPY of a Separate LETTER from the SELECT COMMITTEE of SUPRACARGOES in *China* to the COURT of DIRECTORS of the East India Company, dated 31st May 1831.

(Separate Department.)

To the Honourable the Court of Directors of the United East India Company.

Honourable Sirs,

Par. 1. OUR last address was under date the 7th instant, and forwarded by the Danish brig "Nornen."

2. We had then to notice to your Honourable Court the late death of the Hong Merchant Woo Yay, in consequence of the rigour exercised towards him by the Chinese authorities, under the plea that he had been "traitorously" connected with foreigners. Subsequent acts of the Canton government, we regret to say, have proved their disposition to proceed to a more direct system of aggression unless timely checked; and we can without difficulty perceive, in the tone and character of their late measures, an overweening opinion of the extent to which these aggressions may be carried without opposition on our part. The timely application of firm and temperate remonstrances will, we trust, have the effect of opening their eyes to the impolicy of such a course of proceeding, and prevent the infliction of further injuries in our commercial relations with this country.

3. On the 12th instant a visit was made to our Factory at Canton by the Foo Yuen, accompanied by the Hoppo and a strong party of armed attendants. After a general inspection of the premises, during which the covers were torn down from the picture of his late Majesty, which was otherwise treated with indignity, summary orders were given for the destruction of the quay and the space connecting the Company Factory with the river. The head Linguist was at the same time put into chains in the public hall, and threatened with instant decapitation; while Howqua was ordered to prison, and only released, after being an hour upon his knees, at the intercession of the Hoppo.

4. On the receipt of this intelligence we considered it desirable that one or two members of the Committee should be on the spot as early as possible to communicate with the officers of government, and endeavour to prevent the progress of such outrages. Messrs. Daniell and Smith accordingly reached Canton on the 16th instant, when they found the work of destruction in rapid progress on our premises, and the Hong Merchants in a state of terror which seemed altogether to paralyze them, and which for the time rendered them entirely unavailable as the medium of a verbal communication with the government. Under such circumstances, those gentlemen were obliged to content themselves with drawing up a temperate written remonstrance, addressed to the Foo Yuen, which they delivered to the Merchants, with a desire that it might be delivered without delay.

5. On the 20th instant we received a copy of the proclamation recorded under that date, which, under the most favourable point of view, could be considered as no other than a systematic attack upon the security and respectability of our commerce. Of the eight proposed Regulations enumerated in that document there are some of minor import, symptomatic chiefly of the disposition of the Foo Yuen; but others your Honourable Court will perceive to be of such a nature that no considerations whatever could have justified our acquiescence in them, nor any measures but those of prompt and firm resistance have averted the fatal evils which they threatened to the trade. The guard of Chinese soldiers which is enjoined to be placed over each of our ships on arriving in port, would lead to the constant interference of these

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persons on board our vessels, and to daily collision between them and the sailors, which it has always been our endeavour to prevent as much as practicable; added to which, our people would become prisoners under the surveillance of an undisciplined rabble, who would lose no opportunity of creating trouble, as an almost certain source of profit to themselves.

6. The right of presenting petitions at the city gates is, in the present state of our relations with this country, indispensable; and an attempt to place restrictions upon it or to hamper it with difficulties, which may easily be assumed when it suits the convenience of the Chinese not to listen to us, obviously calls for resistance.

7. The use of European boats is so necessary for the conveyance of commercial and other intelligence, as well as for the transit of individuals in the prosecution of their business, that no house of agency is without one or two such boats, manned by Lascars. The delay attending the procurement of a license for any native boat renders such a conveyance utterly useless on any occasion where dispatch is required; and the use of European boats has been accordingly established as a measure of mere necessity.

8. The most extraordinary, perhaps, of the threatened regulations, is that which prohibits Europeans from uncontrolled ingress and egress at their own Factories. It is in fact tantamount to imprisonment; and though we can hardly expect that any attempt would be made to carry it into execution, it tends equally, while existing in its present shape, to degrade foreigners in the eyes of the natives, and to render them subject to insults and annoyances from the populace.

9. The interdict against native servants is the same as that attempted in 1814, and while hanging over them can only tend to make our service one of ignominy and hazard, and to hold out a pretext for continual extortion, until no native of respectability could be induced to engage himself. Your Honourable Court will perceive from our records that an attack has already been made upon our Compradore, the most confidential native in the Company's employ.

10. Such are the most obnoxious innovations with which we are at present menaced. On the termination of a season of unexampled shortness, we left Canton for this place, confident in the hope of tranquillity, and resolute in the determination to leave no means untried to secure it. Your Honourable Court will therefore do us the justice to perceive that the late conduct of the Foo Yuen was as unexpected by us as it was unprovoked; and the nature of the inflictions which he is attempting to lay upon our intercourse with this country will, we trust, fully justify the course which we have deemed ourselves compelled to pursue. Much of the violence that characterizes the late proceedings of the Chinese government is, we believe, attributable to the personal character of the Foo Yuen, lately arrived in his office, and ignorant of Europeans; and we have some reason to anticipate that the return of his superior, the Viceroy, combined with the unexpected position which his acts have obliged us to take up, may alter his sentiments as to the extent to which he is at liberty to carry his aggression. We may add with satisfaction, that we have not only the opinion and wishes of the British and European community on our side, but that respectable natives themselves have expressed their disapprobation and regret at the late occurrences at Canton.

11. In pursuance of our views, Mr. Lindsay was on the 20th instant dispatched to Canton, to deliver up the keys of the Company's Factory to the Hong Merchants, with a letter to the Foo Yuen, expressive of our regret at the orders he issued on the 12th instant, and stating at the same time that we cannot retain the Factories while they are subjected to such inroads, and our property to such wanton destruction.

12. In our late address to the government we were deterred from including, among our other topics of complaint, the treatment of the deceased merchant, partly because we supposed that the Foo Yuen might perhaps congratulate himself on our combining an act of his predecessors with the remonstrances which his own individual conduct had drawn forth, and partly in consequence of our unwillingness to afford a colour to any further imputations against the Hong, and a pretext for carrying on a system of extortion against the survivors. We are not the less disposed, however, to regard the fate of the late unfortunate merchant as a most serious though indirect attack on the prosperity of the European trade, and as forming part of a system which, if allowed to proceed altogether unchecked, must terminate in its ruin.

13. It is perhaps unnecessary for us here to enter into a more lengthened comment

ment on those several points which are fully discussed in our Consultations transmitted herewith, under date the 20th instant. The forcible violation of our Factory, the degrading outrages there committed, the demolition of the quay constructed three years since by express sanction, and the general destruction of property, were all in open infraction of every principle of justice and propriety, as well as of existing agreements between ourselves and the provincial government. These, however, as your Honourable Court will perceive, were nothing but the forerunners of a more systematic course of proceedings against the interests of the trade. We contend for the establishment of no new privileges or immunities, but for the preservation of old ones long since enjoyed by our predecessors, and sufficient alone, by their extinction, to prove a death-blow to all desirable intercourse with the country. The proposal to confine us to our own Factories, the interdict against native servants, the stationing guards of soldiers over our ships, the non-communication by European boats, and the restriction of our right of presenting petitions, would plainly reduce our condition here nearly to a level with that of the Dutch at Japan.

14. The printed notice addressed to the British community in China, copies of which we have the honour to enclose, we deemed to be at once an act of justice to all parties interested, and a measure of salutary precaution against those mis-statements which past experience fully warranted us in anticipating. It is, however, our earnest hope that the possible crisis which is therein contemplated may be averted by timely and judicious measures. After what we have already said, your Honourable Court will do us the justice to think that nothing is further from our intentions than to enter into collision with the Chinese government; our views are to preclude, if possible, all chance of it, and, by timely precautions, to prevent any delay in the commercial transactions of the ensuing season. At present we have refrained from advancing any propositions in our correspondence with the government, acquainting them merely that if they extend their acts of aggression against the trade, without some security against the recurrence of those complained of, we shall be compelled, at an early period, to suspend all British intercourse. We are fortunate in the period which has been selected for offensive operations by the Chinese, and for the promulgation of their restrictive regulations. Our season of business would not, under ordinary circumstances, commence before the 1st of October: the interval is open for negotiation, and for the adoption of such a course as shall convince the Chinese that we are not disposed to admit the imposition of restrictions injurious to our commercial interests. The country trade, in amount and tonnage at present so important, combined with that of the Company, is calculated, we are convinced, to prove a most important persuasive, as these two together constitute in fact the bulk of foreign commerce at Canton. We have afforded, in the meanwhile, to the provincial authorities the opportunity of abstaining from the further enactment of injurious regulations, and left it open to ourselves, should their conduct not render the opposite course imperative, to continue our trade without interruption.

15. On the 23d instant we received from Mr. Lindsay intelligence of an interview which he had with the Hong Merchants, on presenting them with our addresses to the provincial authorities, together with the keys of the Factory. They protested that their lives would be endangered, did they present our letter, from the violence of the Foo Yuen; and added, that the address from Messrs. Daniell and Smith was for the same reason still in their possession. Mr. Lindsay informed them that the letters must be forthwith conveyed to their destinations, or that we should be compelled to send them ourselves to the city gates.

16. We have been induced, under a view of existing circumstances, to suggest to the Supreme Government of Bengal, in connection with the detail of our grievances, the proposal of an address from his Excellency the Governor-General to the Viceroy of Canton, to be forwarded in charge of a commander of a frigate or other King's ship. The arrival of such a despatch might, we conceive, have a most favourable influence on the minds of the provincial authorities, at the same time that it opened a legitimate road to personal negotiation in case of need. Our letter, a copy of which we have the honour to enclose, will be forwarded to Calcutta by the "Austen," a small vessel of 223 tons, which will likewise carry the present despatch, to be forwarded from Bengal, as well as a duplicate to be left in the straits of Sunda, for transmission from Batavia. The season for the departure of vessels to India being now passed, and no chance existing of an opportunity to transmit our despatch to the Supreme Government with due celerity, with a view to providing against delay in the ensuing season, we have been induced to engage the "Austen" for that purpose,

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for the consideration of sicca rupees 8,000, to be paid on his arrival at Calcutta. Captain Ladd is to quit China on the 1st of June, to leave our despatches at Anjeer without touching at any other intermediate port, and to obey implicitly all directions he may receive.

We have the honour to be, with much respect, Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants,

(signed) *Charles Marjoribanks,*
J. F. Davis,
J. N. Daniell,
T. C. Smith.

British Factory, }
Macao, 31 May 1831. }

— No. 2. —

COPY of a Secret LETTER from the SELECT COMMITTEE of SUPRACARGOES in China to the COURT of DIRECTORS of the East India Company, dated 18th June 1831.

(Secret Department.)

No. 2.
Select Committee
of Supracargoes
to the
Court of Directors,
18 June 1831.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors of the United East India Company.

Honourable Sirs,

Par. 1. OUR last address to your Honourable Court was dated the 31st May, and transmitted by way of Calcutta and Anjeer.

2. In that address it became our duty to state the very serious aspect which affairs connected with your interests had assumed in this country, and the measures to which we had recourse, with a view to the amelioration of existing evils.

3. We stated to your Honourable Court, that after the conclusion of the season in apparent tranquillity, and while anxious only to preserve it, we were residing quietly at Macao, the conduct of the Canton authorities suddenly assumed a form of the most violent and aggressive kind.

4. The English Factory at Canton was, without any previous intimation given, invaded by their Excellencies the Foo Yuen and Hoppo, accompanied by a train of armed attendants; the public hall was forcibly entered, the coverings torn down from the pictures, and that of His Majesty treated with marked indignity. The Hong Merchants were summoned, threatened with immediate imprisonment and death, and kept for upwards of an hour on their knees, soliciting pardon for their alleged "traitorous connection with the English." The senior Chinese Linguist, for the same alleged reason, was thrown into chains and committed to prison, and the orders of the Foo Yuen for his execution were only suspended on the intercession of the Hoppo. Hitherto the Company's Factory has been considered, and has been admitted by the Chinese government, to be sacred against such intrusion, and hitherto it has remained unpolluted by such deeds of violence.

5. To these succeeded acts of a still more aggressive character. The gates of the Factory leading to the river were torn down; the quay, built by the express sanction of the Governor of Canton, was destroyed; the trees in front of the Factory uprooted, and the premises generally laid waste; several hundred natives being employed, and not intermitting their labours even during the night. The devastation is, by the last accounts, still going forward, and the ground in front of the Factory is a heap of ruins. This ground, we may observe in passing remark, was the only space which we possessed for the purpose of recreation and exercise.

6. A proclamation was simultaneously issued by the Canton authorities of the most severely restrictive kind, interdicting the employment of native servants, and denouncing vengeance on those now employed by us. Without the assistance of natives in numerous menial offices, the conduct of commercial transactions would be next to impracticable. Addresses to the government were declared inadmissible. This is amongst our only safeguards and privileges. Foreign merchants were refused residence in Canton throughout the year, a point of essential necessity to the general British commerce at this port. Foreign boats were precluded from passing between Macao and Canton, without which privilege foreigners can only have recourse to the native smuggling boats, or be detained for ten days or a fortnight

a fortnight waiting for a pass, which may even then be denied them. Chinese soldiers were appointed to act as a guard on ships anchored at Whampoa, and foreigners were ordered to be confined within the Factories, and not to pass beyond the doors without special permission previously obtained.

7. Surrounded with these overwhelming evils, we resolved, as the only alternative left, to oppose them by every legitimate means in our power. Two members of the Select Committee proceeded to Canton; their remonstrance was unattended to, and their address to the Canton government rejected. We then deemed it absolutely necessary to intimate to British subjects, that while exposed to such acts, it was impossible that commercial intercourse could continue, and that, unless the evils were remedied, it would be suspended on the 1st of August next.

8. We deemed it expedient to fix the period in our notice to British subjects, that, in the event of such suspension being necessary, which would have included the whole of the English trade at this port, sufficient previous warning might be afforded to them. We at the same time, on the rejection of our further addresses to the government, drew up a short notice in Chinese, which was generally distributed, and affixed on the most public places in the neighbourhood of the Factories, stating in few words, "That the English came to China for the purposes of commerce; that their anxious wish was to be the friends of the Chinese people; but that our Factories had been attacked and our property destroyed, while we were peaceably residing at Macao; that our addresses to the government had been rejected, and that new and severe restrictions had been imposed upon trade; that under such circumstances it was impossible that intercourse between the two countries could continue, which must be suspended at an early date; that the English had none other than a feeling of perfect good-will to the Chinese, but that they never would submit to oppression."

9. We have reason to believe that this notice created a very considerable sensation in Canton. The keys of the Factory had previously been delivered to the Hong Merchants, to be carried to the Foo Yuen, stating, that as we had no present means of protecting our property we abandoned it. The keys, and we believe our addresses to the government, still remain in possession of the Hong Merchants.

10. Previously to these events an occurrence had taken place of a serious and most distressing nature, and one which we were conscious inflicted a severe blow on the security of our commerce. The Hong Merchant *Woo Yay*, the managing partner in the Hong of Goqua, on whom the stability of the firm depended, the most respectable perhaps of the class to which he belonged, and most trustworthy in his commercial dealings, was early in the course of the last season imprisoned, his alleged offence being his "traitorous connection with the English." We were compelled to abstain from remonstrance with the government by the expressed apprehensions of his relations, that our doing so would only precipitate his fate. It was generally believed that banishment for life or perpetual imprisonment were the least evils which awaited him; but from these he was recently relieved by death, while subjected to privations of a very aggravated kind.

11. We did not deem it expedient further to excite the irritation of the officers of the government by a remonstrance on this occasion, as we felt satisfied it could be attended with no useful result; but we need not state to your Honourable Court how cruelly afflicting to your representatives in this country must be the punishment and death of natives for no other cause than their alleged connection with us; that of the Hong Merchant in question, we need not add, was solely of a commercial nature.

12. Having by the measures above briefly adverted to adopted the only means in our power to check the violent current of oppression, we sent by express to the Supreme Government of India a statement of affairs in this country, and considered it our duty to contemplate from their very serious aspect every possible contingency, from the restoration of tranquillity to a positive rupture with the Chinese government.

13. We recommended that a letter should be addressed by the Governor-General to the Viceroy of Canton, strongly remonstrating against the late proceedings. We suggested that the commander of one of His Majesty's ships should be the bearer of the letter, and submitted the expediency of his Excellency the admiral on the Indian station being applied to for one or more of His Majesty's ships to visit China in the ensuing season. We gave to the Supreme Government our unreserved opinions, as we have already offered them to your Honourable Court, that should the conduct of the Chinese government precipitate a suspension of amicable inter-

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course, it could readily be reduced to submit to such terms as were prescribed, and our commerce without much serious injury be established on a basis firm and respectable. We further recommended that an address should be forwarded from the Governor-General to the Emperor, to be used or not as was expedient. The formal reception of such a letter might be declined, but the means of communicating its contents to the Peking government might be otherwise available.

14. From the ready attention that communications which we have made on subjects of minor importance have met with from Lord William Bentinck, we have every confidence that our suggestions will receive from him that due consideration which their importance, and which his high character will ensure for them; while his decision will be regulated by an anxious desire to preserve unimpaired our national character and interests in China.

15. Having taken these measures, which pledged us to no defined course of proceeding, which made no present sacrifice of important interests, which afforded to the Chinese government ample period for reflection, and which would ultimately prepare us as the season advanced for any event which might be necessary, we resolved to await in silence any further expression of the disposition of the Canton authorities. The Governor was absent, engaged in quelling an insurrection in Hainan; and it was possible on his return he might refuse to sanction the violent conduct of the Foo Yuen, who acted as his representative.

16. We may here remark, that the resolutions of the British resident merchants of Canton expressed their "unequivocal" approval of the measures which we had adopted, and that great anxiety was betrayed by all Chinese interested in the trade, who did not hesitate to condemn the violent proceedings of the government.

17. Affairs had remained in this situation for about the period of a month, when a despatch was transmitted to us from the Governor, still in Hainan, accompanying an Imperial edict, in which the new restrictions imposed upon foreign commerce were confirmed by the Emperor, and a tacit sanction given to the acts of aggression which had been committed. The posture of affairs thus assumed an altered and a much more decided character; and, while they confirmed us in our opinion of the necessity of opposing the present hostile spirit of the Chinese government, and of redress being required for the aggressions committed and indignities offered, rendered it most desirable that we should look to the attainment of these ends with the most likely prospect of a beneficial result, and with the least possible sacrifice of the great and important interests entrusted to our care.

18. The Canton authorities, in addition to their own disposition to oppress foreigners, are now supported by the full influence of imperial authority: if appealed to, they would seek shelter under that authority, and plead it in their justification; all hope of redress, therefore, by remonstrance was removed from us.

19. The suspension of trade we will ever regard as an extreme measure; and under present existing circumstances, we should not have been prepared for any decided course of conduct on the 1st of August. British commerce would have been suspended to its great injury, and valuable time would have been spent in fruitless negotiations. We had deemed it expedient to name the 1st of August, as previous warning to British merchants of a fixed period was indispensable; but finding ourselves, on the receipt of the edict from the Emperor, placed in a situation where we had no means of contravening it, we gave the earliest notice in our power, on the 10th instant, that no suspension of intercourse would take place on the day named, but that we should await the result of the measures which we had adopted, and the references which we had made. Your Honourable Court will do us the justice to believe, that we upon this occasion made a painful sacrifice of individual feeling to what we considered a sense of our public duty, which induced us to abandon personal considerations, and look forward to a permanently favourable and useful result.

20. It is difficult, if not impossible, to account for the extreme course which the Canton authorities have lately deemed it proper to pursue. We were prepared to expect that they might be induced to act on the presumption, that on the succession of the present members of the Select Committee to the situations which they fill, their disposition would be one of tacit submission to the dictation of the government, but we are not conscious of any one act or declaration of our own, previously to the attack on the Factory and to the events which followed it, which could give countenance to such a supposition.

21. In our very first address to the Governor of Canton, we took the firm and temperate ground on which we had resolved to stand; the same violent and insulting

ing language characterized the proclamations of the government previously to our accession as subsequently ; and the seizure and imprisonment of the Hong Merchant, Woo Yay, the most afflicting and perhaps the most serious in its probable results of any of the existing evils, we have every reason to believe was premeditated and determined on prior to any knowledge of a change in the Company's representatives in this country. Nearly all the previous proclamations of the government are also strongly marked with a spirit of pre-existing hostility ; we are therefore induced to regard the late proceedings of the Canton government as a continuance of that systematic endeavour to depress and lower the foreign condition and character in China by which it has with few interruptions for many years been influenced ; and, eager to attain its ends, it has been in this instance led into a transgression of those prudential limits within which it has hitherto found protection.

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22. We are well aware (and we deeply feel) that we have exposed ourselves to the charge of inconsistency by our present apparent acquiescence ; but we are willing to incur that censure, rather than to have endeavoured, without full and sufficient means, to contend with the declaration of the Imperial will. We await the time when we feel confident we shall do it effectually, and without the sacrifice of the great and important interests entrusted to us.

23. We proceed to place your Honourable Court in full possession of the course of proceedings which we propose to adopt. We tendered for a vessel of 200 tons and upwards, and have chartered the country ship "Hannah" of 450 tons, which we propose to dispatch about the middle of July, to ensure your Honourable Court being placed in possession of our intentions. We have obtained that vessel at a £. 11 pr. ton of very moderate rate ; and as she will be laden with a portion of winter 10 cwt. black tea. teas, no loss can arise from the transaction. We shall likewise take especial care that copies of our present address be transmitted by any indirect opportunity which may offer.

24. When our shipping season arrives we shall proceed to Canton, though it is not our intention to re-hoist the English flag amid the ruins with which it would necessarily be surrounded. It is our firm intention to unload and load the ships consigned to us. In doing so we must be prepared to submit to renewed insults and injuries ; but, feeling conscious that we are following the path which public duty prescribes, we will undeviatingly adhere to it. To threats and attempts at intimidation we shall probably be exposed ; but we need not, we trust, assure your Honourable Court that to feelings of personal apprehension we shall remain insensible. We have a deeper feeling for the native Chinese in our service, who naturally look up to us for protection, which it may not be in our power to afford them. Within these few days the servants of the President have had intimation given to them, that they remain in his service at the danger of their lives. He immediately requested them to leave it, which they declined doing ; but the fate of Woo Yay is before the eyes of all the natives of this country who are in any capacity associated with us ; and it is almost impossible to expect, under such circumstances, a faithful or willing service.

25. Having loaded all the Company's ships of the season, and reserved a portion of them here when loaded (should it be necessary), we shall, should the present serious aspect of affairs continue, obtain as large a portion as possible of winter teas, and transmit them to England by vessels chartered for the purpose, which we have every reason to expect will be obtained upon favourable terms. We shall thus place your Honourable Court in possession of a large portion of the teas which would, under ordinary circumstances, have been shipped in the succeeding season. Even apart from these considerations, which the present crisis suggests, we should have been induced to refer it for your decision, whether, in the present most insecure state of the Hong Merchants, it might not be advisable henceforth to have that part of the investment termed "Winter Teas," in your warehouses in London, instead of in Canton, where they are so much exposed to imminent risks of every description.

26. Before the conclusion of our season, the private British commerce conducted at Whampoa will likewise be terminated, and the traffic carried on at Lintin will be the only trade (an illegal one, according to the laws of this country,) remaining, materially involving English interests.

27. While accomplishing these important objects, we cannot fail to be placed in possession of the reply of the Supreme Government, which will guide us in the requisitions to be made from the Chinese authorities. We must be prepared to expect that the remonstrance of the Governor-General may be rejected, and redress

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of grievances denied. Under such circumstances, the tone of communication must be altered, and redress be demanded; when, we feel confident, a favourable result will be the consequence.

28. We have only, in conclusion, to request from the impartial judgment of your Honourable Court, that our late proceedings may be considered by you with strict reference to the difficulties with which we are everywhere surrounded, and the imperfect means which we possessed of contending with acts of so violent and aggressive a character, involving not only the credit and security but even the commercial advantages of our transactions. The legal trade of this country becomes annually more subject to uncertainty and oppression; and the person and property of a Hong Merchant may at any moment, without any act of his own, become endangered.

29. We have used every means available to us to preserve our national character and interests unimpaired. If we fail, it can only be from want of sufficient power to maintain them.

We have the honour to remain, Honourable Sirs,

Your faithful and obedient servants,

(signed)

*Charles Marjoribanks,
J. F. Davis,
J. A. Daniell,
T. C. Smith.*

British Factory, Macao, }
18 June 1831.

— No. 3. —

COPY of a Letter from the CHAIRMAN and DEPUTY CHAIRMAN of the East India Company to the SELECT COMMITTEE of SUPRACARGOES in *China*, dated 9th December 1831.

(Secret.)

To the President and Select Committee of Supracargoes at *Canton* in *China*.

No. 3.
Chairman and
Deputy Chairman
to the
Select Committee
of Supracargoes,
9 December 1831.

Par. 1. OUR Secretary was instructed on the 9th ultimo to acquaint you that the Court of Directors had received by the Company's sloop of war "Coote," on the 7th ultimo, your letters of the 7th and 31st May last, and that their contents had caused the Court deep concern.

2. The American ship "Addison," by which that letter is sent, has not yet sailed from Liverpool, and we expect that this communication may be in time to reach her.

3. Your additional advices of the 18th June, *via* San Blas and Tampico, reached us yesterday; and as it is not possible for the Court to give that deliberate consideration which the several important points brought to their notice in your letters above adverted to demand, so as reply to them by the present conveyance, we have deemed it expedient to address you immediately from ourselves.

4. The intimation contained in the notification promulgated by you on the 10th June, viz. that you did not intend to suspend the commercial intercourse on the 1st August, has given considerable relief to our minds.

5. The stoppage of the trade is so serious a measure, and one so fatal to the sole objects of our intercourse with China, viz. the maintenance of the beneficial commerce we have so long carried on with that country, that nothing short of personal hostility on the part of the local authorities can, in our judgment, warrant the resort to so extreme a step. We must earnestly press upon your attention the repeated injunctions conveyed to you by the Court on this subject.

6. With regard to that part of your letter of June which notifies your intention of hiring ships for the purpose of bringing home the winter teas, after the ships of the season shall have been loaded, we apprise you, in the event of your having adopted that measure, that no alteration will be made in the consignment to you of the twenty ships of the present season, for which we trust you will have secured full cargoes of tea, notwithstanding the winter teas shall have been already shipped.

7. The Court's sentiments and views upon the whole of your late measures will be

be communicated to you by the direct ships, or by any previous fitting opportunity that may present itself; but in the interim we cannot too strongly guard you against the adoption of any course of policy which is likely to involve us in hostilities with the Chinese, without the most distinct and positive orders from this country.

East India House, London,]
9 December 1831. }

We are your loving friends,

(signed) *Robert Campbell,*
J. G. Ravenshaw.

No. 3.
Chairman and
Deputy Chairman,
to the
Select Committee
of Supracargoes,
9 December 1831.

— No. 4. —

COPY of a LETTER from the COURT OF DIRECTORS of the East India Company to the SELECT COMMITTEE of SUPRACARGOES in *China*, dated 13th January 1832.

Our President and Select Committee of Supracargoes at *Canton* in *China*.

Par. 1. IT being uncertain whether any conveyance to *China* may offer before the departure of our direct ships in April next, we have determined to dispatch the Company's sloop of war "Coote," by which we received in November last your despatches of May preceding.

2. We transmit numbers in the packet, a copy of our Secretary's letter, dated the 9th November, acknowledging by our desire your advices of May, and also copy of a letter from our Chairman and Deputy Chairman to you, under date the 9th December, announcing the receipt of your despatch of the 18th June, *via* San Blas and Tampico. The originals of these letters were forwarded by the American ship "Addison," which sailed from Liverpool the 31st of December.

3. The leading points detailed in your advices now before us, comprising your letters to the 22d July, and your Consultations to the 19th of that month, are—

The aggression of the Foo Yuen on your Factory :

The eight Regulations issued by the Viceroy :

Your announcement of the intended stoppage of the trade on the 1st August last, and your request to the Bengal government for the aid of some of His Majesty's ships of war to enable you to carry into effect the measures which you then contemplated, but of the nature of which you have given us no information :

Your subsequent determination of the 10th June, not to enforce the stoppage of the trade, in consequence of the new regulations having received the sanction of an Imperial edict, and the intimation of this resolution to the Bengal government, accompanied by a declaration, that "on the termination of the season, when the valuable property of the Company, as well as of individuals, has been rescued, you deeply feel that the time will be arrived when reparation must be demanded."

4. We proceed to consider the measures connected with the alterations in the front of the Factory, which led to the aggressions of the Foo Yuen in the month of May last.

5. The subject was first noticed upon the Select Committee's Consultation of the 2d September 1828, in the following terms :

"The anxiety evinced by the government to commence unlading our ships holds out to us a favourable opportunity for gaining their sanction to a plan which we had devised in the month of February, and had already carried partially into effect (but of which no notice is taken on your records), for improving the access to the stairs of the Company's Factory in *Canton*, when the work was unexpectedly interrupted by the interference of the Nan-hey-yuen."

6. The nature and necessity of the projected alteration was explained, and a general description entered into of the locality of the premises alluded to.

7. The Select Committee then stated that they had communicated, in the first instance, their views to the Hong Merchants, in order that the matter should be represented to government previously to entering upon the operations, when they were assured by the Merchants that no necessity existed for a formal representation of the case to the local authorities.

8. It appears that the Committee still expressed to the Merchants their reluctance to enter upon the undertaking without the previous sanction of government; but

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having received from the Merchants the strongest assurances that they would hold themselves responsible for its success, and having been requested by them not to address the government on the subject, the Committee yielded the point "to what they considered a better knowledge of the forms of the country."

9. The work, however, was stopped in the month of March, as already stated.

10. The Hong Merchants having written to the Committee on the 2d September 1828, urging, at the instance of the Hoppo, that the Company's ships should unload, the Committee, in their reply on the 3d September, adverted to the delay in the alterations, and to the vexatious interference of government, adding, "We hereby request you to inform government, that after the landing-place is completed we may then unload the ships."

11. On the following day the Merchants stated that the delay was not on their part, and that the matter had been referred to the local authorities to examine.

12. On the 13th October the Committee addressed the Governor on other subjects, but at the same time alluded to the offensive state of the ground in the front of the Factory; adding, "An endeavour during this year was made to clear the square of such nuisances, and afford a wholesome promenade, as foreigners are not allowed to go into the country; but at the suggestion of a petty custom-house officer (who was moved by malice, because he shared not in the fees), every improvement was put a stop to, and the English Company have not at this hour a landing-place fit to be used."

13. On the 17th October, Howqua acquainted the Committee that he had had a long audience with the Viceroy on the subject of the Committee's address; and stated, that "the Viceroy had given directions for the immediate recommencement of the operations in the square in the front of the Company's Factory, and had expressed much displeasure at the delay which had been occasioned by the Nan-hey-yuen in carrying into effect the orders which he had previously given upon the subject."

14. No record of this order appears on the proceedings of the Committee; but on their Consultations of the 18th October is the following statement:

* The Viceroy.

"A pledge of this officer's* disposition to accommodate matters has been given by a deputation of the Nan-hey-yuen to our Factory, to give directions for the renewal of the works upon the *landing-place*, which will be resumed forthwith."

15. There is a marked difference between the verbal statement of Howqua, in which he alluded to the *operations in the square in front of the Factory*, and the directions of the Nan-hey-yuen given personally, which were confined to a renewal of the works upon the *landing-place*.

16. On the 22d October, two boats with cornelian beads having been seized at the landing-place in front of the Factory, you represented the necessity of the landing-place being secured by gates, and the space in front of the Factory surrounded by walls.

17. On the 21st November 1828, an edict was received through the Merchants, which ordered them forthwith "to take the newly-accumulated ground in front of the Factory within the boundary, and build a landing-place with wood and stones; but it was not permitted to usurp, encroach, and build in other places, which would involve examination and inquiry." This was the first recorded sanction to the work, which was strictly confined to the building a landing-place with wood and stones.

18. On the 20th February 1829, the matter still remaining unfinished, the Committee addressed the Viceroy preparatory to their departure from Canton for Macao, requesting his sanction for the completion of the work, and the surrounding it with a wall.

19. In consequence of this address, the Quang-choo-foo and Nan-hae-heen were sent by the Viceroy to examine the place in person, and "to understand the case clearly." The officers made a minute examination; and the Hoppo, being called upon to state what effect the alterations would have with reference to the custom-house, reported, that, "if they be allowed to build a wall around, it will obstruct the view from the custom-house, and be an impediment to the attendants keeping a look-out from thence. It is inexpedient to allow this."

20. Upon which the Viceroy issued an edict, decidedly prohibiting the purposed alterations, excepting the repairing the landing-place with wood and stones, and forbidding the wall to be built. This was followed by another edict (arising out of a representation

a representation from the Committee), "prohibiting the Chinese from walking on the Company's landing-place, or making any noise there."

21. The discussions which had commenced in the month of June 1829, and which led to the stoppage of the trade, only terminated on the 8th February 1830, when the Factory repaired to Canton for the purpose of resuming the trade. The President on that occasion was accompanied by Mrs. Baynes, on the alleged invitation of Howqua. It appears to have been the first instance in which a lady of the Factory had proceeded to Canton, and was in direct contravention of our orders of the 3d April 1829.

22. The ground in front of the Factory remaining unfinished, the Committee requested the Merchants on the 27th February to bring the matter before the Viceroy, who issued an edict containing the following passage: "But ere one year has elapsed, these foreigners all at once (because their request to have warehouses was disallowed) now entreat to have a wall built, and a gate set up, and that the boards may be exchanged for stones. This really is perverse obstinacy."

23. Upon the receipt of this communication, the Committee observed, "As every attempt to gain this point has failed by application to the government, we must adopt other means to effect it. We therefore determined to remove the inconvenience, by ordering a detachment of boats and seamen from our ships, by whom the cavity remaining will be filled from a heap of rubbish in the neighbourhood, and a fence erected, to prevent intrusion."

24. An order was accordingly issued on the 2d March to the commanders of the ships for carrying their plan into effect, and for their furnishing Captain Haviside, who was to superintend it, with the assistance of a large cutter or launch, and a competent crew, containing a carpenter and carpenter's mate. The detachment arrived on the night following; and, from the exertions used by the officers and men, the work was expected to be completed on the 5th, the ground levelled, and a fence erected to make it secure.

25. On the 4th March the Hong Merchants waited on the Committee, entreating a suspension of the work, the Chinese government having refused to sanction it. In reply to this request, they were informed that the Committee had not resorted to the means used for the removal of the nuisance complained of until every endeavour to attain that object by other measures had failed, and that the Committee felt convinced the Viceroy could not be aware of the actual circumstances of the case, which it was the duty of the Hong Merchants to have stated properly to his Excellency; that such a line of conduct would have superseded the necessity of the Committee requiring the assistance of the seamen from the ships, and "that the culpability, if any could accrue, from such an insignificant question, must rest with themselves;" the Committee adding, "that they could by no means agree to desist from the undertaking, which a few hours would then bring to a close."

26. On the 5th March the Quang-choo-foo visited the ground, and the Hong Merchants informed the Committee that he had issued orders to hollow out the ground which had been levelled, and reduce it to its original state; upon which the Committee remarked, "This proposition is too ridiculous to be discussed, and was admitted by some of the Merchants, after the conference was broken up, to be a mere matter of form, to support the consistency of the government; we conceive therefore that the matter may be considered terminated."

27. On the 8th March an edict was issued by the Viceroy against parties of seamen coming to Canton, having reference, the Committee stated, to the party employed in the completion of the premises in front of the Factory.

28. On the 21st April the Merchants addressed the Committee (then at Macao), representing that an order had been issued which obliged them to hollow out the ground again, and to cover the space over with boards as before; that 10 days had originally been allowed for effecting the order, but at their entreaty another 10 days had been granted. "Should we again procrastinate (observed the Merchants), it would be difficult for us to bear the blame; and we imagine that you, gentlemen, could not endure to sit and look on at our being involved in difficulties." They had accordingly hired labourers to perform the work.

29. Upon which the Committee observed, "As we cannot accurately ascertain the extent of the mischief, we shall refrain for the present from noticing this offensive proceeding, which we can only attribute to an obstinate desire on the part of government to humiliate foreigners in the eyes of the people, and circumscribe within the narrowest limits the little space allotted for our recreation."

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Cons. 27 Feb. 1830.

Cons. 2 March
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30. Our sentiments on the subject were made known to you, in our despatch of the 13th April 1831, in the following terms: "We do not doubt, from the observations on your proceedings, that it was desirable that the space of ground in question should be enclosed; but we greatly doubt the propriety of your doing so in defiance of the repeated prohibitions of the Chinese authorities at Canton; we hope those authorities will not again notice the affair; but should they do so, we positively forbid your retaining the enclosure by any other means than those of negotiation; you are not to proceed to actual force, nor to use threats or intimidation in your intercourse with the Chinese, in order to preserve the continuance of the enclosure, should the Viceroy and other authorities strenuously insist on its removal. This is not a question of sufficient importance to incur the risk of exciting unfavourable feelings in the minds of the principal authorities in the city, much less is it one for which the tranquil progress of our affairs at Canton should be endangered by renewed discussions with the government of that place."

31. The Select Committee having closed their commercial transactions, returned on the 16th April 1830 to Macao.

32. Upon repairing to Canton on the 4th October following, for the purpose of commencing the business of the season 1830-31, Mrs. Baynes again accompanied the President. No invitation appears to have been given by the Hong Merchants upon this occasion.

Cons. 19 Oct. 1830.

33. Shortly after that lady had arrived there, the Committee represent that various "insulting and opprobrious edicts were issued, several of them prohibiting the residence of European females at Canton." The Committee remonstrated against them, and urged the unreasonableness of the objection to the residence of females, as several had resided at Canton the preceding season. The Committee represented that they were joined in their remonstrance by all the members of the British commercial community.

34. On the 20th October, Howqua, on whose invitation Mrs. Baynes proceeded to Canton in the preceding season, waited upon the Committee with the Viceroy's commands "As to women coming to Canton: the old law forbids it; it never can be permitted. The Chief is desired to send away the lady forthwith. If she cannot move immediately, the Merchants are to ascertain in how many days she will go. If the Chief says he will not remove the foreign lady in two or three days, if she still be here, soldiers will be sent to the Factory to seize and drive her out. The Chief is to tell the Merchants what day she goes."

35. It was upon the receipt of this communication the Committee resolved, in defiance of the laws and regulations of the country, to order up sailors and guns for the protection of the Factory.

36. Notwithstanding that communication, and also another edict of the Viceroy, on the 27th October, in which it was declared "they ought not, in what has been disallowed, to disobey and act irregularly," Mrs. Baynes was still suffered to remain at Canton.

37. Such was the state of affairs when you took your seat at the close of November, as president and members of the Select Committee, under our orders of the 26th May 1830.

38. On the 11th December, Howqua informed you that it was the desire of the Viceroy that all ladies then resident at Canton should immediately quit it. This was not assented to by you, though at the time you were aware the security merchant for a private ship, consigned to Mr. Whiteman, was in confinement on account of Mrs. Whiteman being at Canton.

39. On the 14th December it appears that the Hong Merchants waited upon you, to entreat you to order the ladies from Canton. You nevertheless adhered to the determination adopted on the 11th, not to comply with such entreaty.

40. On the 28th the Viceroy issued another edict, which contained the following remarks: "But you, the Committee, are persons sent by your own country to controul the commercial affairs. You must no doubt be persons who clearly understand what is reasonable and just, and maturely acquainted with the regulations. It is your duty to lead all the foreign merchants, to keep every one of them in his proper place, and not transgress the usages.

"As to what is said in the petition, that husband and wife should not be separated, this refers to ordinary cases, when living at home. If they go abroad, and become guests in a country, how can they be viewed according to the same rule? Besides, at Macao they may be sent to reside: where is the necessity of overstepping the mark, and going to Canton?"

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41. On the 20th December you received the translation of a document stated to have been sent from Pekin, and to have formed part of an imperial edict against the residence of European females at Canton.

42. It is recorded on your Consultations of the 1st January 1831, that a private communication had been made to your President, that the residence of females was "a small matter;" and you cited this as a proof of the duplicity of the Hong Merchants, and as authorizing your non-obedience of the edicts regarding females; whilst at the same time it appears that the very source whence you derived this information was actually one of the Hong Merchants, upon whose assurance, it must be remembered, the works in front of the Factory, which led to the conduct of the Foo Yuen, were entered upon by the Committee, and also that Mrs. Baynes originally visited Canton.

43. We observe likewise, that on the same day you received this private communication from the Hong Merchants, you recorded a memorial from the Viceroy, the Hoppo, and the Foo Yuen to the Emperor, against the resort of females, and also regarding the use of sedan-chairs, and the bringing up of sailors and guns.

44. We have felt it necessary to enter thus minutely into the details of the proceedings in question, because they are materially connected with, and we have no doubt they tended to influence, the subsequent conduct of the Chinese government, in issuing the edicts and obnoxious regulations of which you now complain.

45. Having closed the business of the season, you departed from Canton in the month of February for Macao, where you received, on the 14th of May last, a report of the proceedings adopted by the Foo Yuen at the Factory on the 12th of that month. Messrs. Daniell and Smith were forthwith deputed to Canton, for the purpose of ascertaining the real state of affairs. Those gentlemen reported the violent measures which had been adopted by the Foo Yuen towards your Linguist, and also towards Howqua, who had been ordered to reduce the ground to the state in which it was three years preceding. They pointed out the indignity offered to the portrait of his late Majesty, and stated, that as the Hong Merchants were afraid to fulfil their wishes by making known to the Viceroy the injurious effects of these proceedings to the Company, and their request that he would desist, they addressed the Foo Yuen, protesting against the further demolition of the Company's property, and also of the quay, which they stated had been built openly, although the ground within the wall was not permitted to be completed.

46. The Merchants having reluctantly agreed to take charge of the letter, Messrs. Daniell and Smith returned to Macao on the 19th May.

47. On the 20th you received from the Hong Merchants the copy of the eight Regulations which had been proposed by the Viceroy to the Emperor in council on the 24th February. After transcribing the regulations, you observed, "We cannot conceive any greater difficulties to be imposed upon an intercourse with this country than those which we have above enumerated, almost without a comment, merely with explanation sufficient to place them in a clear point of view; nor do we hesitate to observe, that if they were to be acted upon to the letter (and what security have we to the contrary?) foreign commerce could not be conducted at Canton."

48. You then adverted to the favourable period at which the occurrence took place; stated that you did not see the necessity of advancing any positive propositions in your correspondence with the government, but determined to acquaint them, "that if they proceeded to acts destructive of the commerce, nor offered any redress for those already committed, you should be compelled at an early date to suspend it." You dispatched Mr. Lindsay to Canton, for the purpose of delivering up the keys of the Factory to the Hong Merchants, for them to convey to the Foo Yuen, stating that you would not retain them while the Factories were not secure from intrusion and your premises from destruction. You resolved to give intimation to the British merchants at Canton of your intentions, and to publish a notice in order to prevent any misapprehension; and you further resolved to address the Bengal government, suggesting a letter from the Governor-General to the Viceroy, dispatching it to China in a vessel of war, and entrusting it to the commander for presentation; and that some ships of war should be sent to support the measure, and that the admiral should visit China, in contemplation of contingencies like the present.

49. In accordance with these views you addressed the Governor, Foo Yuen and Hoppo, on the 19th May, noticing the whole of the circumstances, and stating that, as you had no means at that time of protecting the property, you abandoned it

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it, and transmitted the keys of the Factory to the Foo Yuen. You likewise published a notice on the 20th May, recapitulating the events, and, as the *Representatives of the British nation* in China, gave public intimation that, should the evils complained of remain unremoved, all commercial intercourse between the two countries would be suspended on the 1st August. This was followed by a note in Chinese, under date 29th May, to be delivered to the Hong Merchants or Linguist, or through any other channel by which it might reach the observation of the *Foo Yuen*; and by your Consultations of the 2d June, it appears to have been "placed in conspicuous places in Canton."

50. On the 26th May you addressed a letter to the Bombay government, requesting that one of the Company's cruizers might be dispatched to you with as little delay as possible; and on the same day you wrote to the Supreme Government, in accordance with the intentions you recorded on the 20th.

51. In this latter document you pointed out the aggressions of the *Foo Yuen*, and likewise the different circumstances connected with that event; but you appear to have kept wholly out of view the facts, to which we have adverted at such length, regarding the unauthorized works carried on by the late Committee on the ground immediately in front of the Factory, as well as the act of bringing up the sailors and guns; facts which ought to have been stated to the Bengal government as most essential in enabling them to form a correct judgment on the measures brought to their notice. It also appears that you sent a copy of your letter to the Bengal government to Admiral Sir Edward Owen.

52. Having thus noticed the aggression on the Factory, the new regulations, the intended stoppage of the trade, and your letter to the Supreme Government of India, we shall proceed to offer such observations upon these points, and upon your conduct in connection with them, as the circumstances appear to us to call for.

53. The aggression of the *Foo Yuen* was characteristic of his nation, and had the works which he destroyed been originally carried on under the sanction of the local authorities at Canton, his conduct would have afforded a strong ground for remonstrance; but when it is clearly shown that the works were begun without authority, that when part only was sanctioned the whole was carried forward, and the edicts and proclamations pointedly prohibiting the measures were treated with contempt, it cannot be matter of astonishment that the local government of a city, in the vicinity of which you reside solely for the purposes of trade (not under any defined treaty, but by sufferance only), and which government has the means of retaliation in its own hands, should, after the repeated instances in which its authority was set at defiance, and very probably instigated by the imperial edict (which arrived at Canton on the day of the outrage,) confirming the new regulations, have acted in the peremptory manner adopted by the *Foo Yuen* on the occasion.

54. The regulations, though termed *new*, do not materially differ in substance from those which have been enacted at former periods. We do not perceive any strong objections exist to the provisions contained in the 1st, 2d, and 8th Regulations. The departure of the Factory from Canton after the close of commercial dealings is all that is insisted upon under the 1st Regulation, and has in fact been invariably observed by you. The object of the 2d is to prevent the Chinese borrowing money from foreign merchants; a most wholesome provision, and one which, if it be strictly observed, will eradicate an evil which has been the cause of serious embarrassment from an early period of our intercourse with Canton.

55. The 8th Regulation appears to provide sufficiently for the presentation of addresses and appeals both through the Hong Merchants and directly at the city gates.

56. The re-enacting of the 5th and 6th, prohibiting the resort of females and sailors to Canton, and also the bringing up of guns and muskets, has clearly been occasioned by the proceedings which we have already noticed.

57. The provisions of the 3d and 4th, if enforced, would undoubtedly interfere most materially with the essential comforts of your Factory, and with the facilities hitherto possessed by you for carrying on your commercial affairs.

58. We observe that in the year 1814, when the propositions were submitted by Sir George T. Staunton for confirmation by the Chinese government, a proceeding to which you have referred, the 5th was as follows: viz.

"For these 100 years past it has been customary to employ as porters, door-keepers

keepers and attendants of all kinds, natives of China only. If these natives may not be employed, we shall be quite satisfied to employ our own people, if some other abode is pointed out where there may be sufficient room for that purpose."

59. The regulation, when confirmed by the Emperor's edict, was in the following terms: viz.

"Natives may be employed as coolies, porters, tea-boilers, cooks, and in other similar capacities, but persons not to be hired under the denomination of Kawpan* and Shawan.†"

60. The 7th Regulation provides that commanders going backwards and forwards in sanpan boats must have a flag set. We do not perceive any prohibition to the commanders going in their own boats, such boats carrying a flag. This, we understood, has been invariably the practice, and is observed for the purpose of relieving such boats from search at the several chop houses between Whampoa and Canton. Every boat on its arrival at Canton is searched, under the regulations.

61. From the result of former representations and discussions with the Chinese government, we are of opinion that a temperate and judicious appeal on the most objectionable points, which are comprised in the 3d and 4th Regulations, would have effected and may still effect a modification of those provisions; and that notwithstanding the conduct of the Foo Yuen with reference to the Factory (for which much cause is to be found in the proceedings of your predecessors), a proper explanation of the circumstances would still induce the authorities to observe the stipulation acceded to in 1814, viz. "The local magistrate not to visit the Factory without giving due previous notice."

62. We were not insensible to the difficulties you would have to encounter on assuming charge of the Factory, under our orders of the 26th May 1830, arising on the one hand from the notion, which the supercession of the former Committee might engender in the minds of the Chinese, of a disposition on the part of the Committee to yield more implicitly to the will of their government; and, on the other, from the opposition you might at first meet with from the British private merchants to a more conciliatory line of conduct, such merchants having so decidedly supported the views of your predecessors. But after making every allowance for the circumstances in which you were placed, we cannot approve of the support which you gave to a continued disobedience of the laws prohibiting the residence of females at Canton, although repeatedly urged to obey them, both by the Hong Merchants and by the edicts of the Viceroy.

63. So far from weakening the attempts which you might be called upon to make in order to relieve the trade from vexatious exactions or impositions, we consider that immediate obedience to the laws in question, accompanied by a clear and open avowal of the principles by which you were actuated in paying such obedience, would have strengthened your influence with the government, by evincing a disposition to respect their regulations.

64. We are prepared to admit that the conduct of the Foo Yuen, arising out of transactions which had occurred in the time of former Committees, and regarding which nothing had arisen to bring them to your immediate notice till the attack on the Factory, followed so immediately by the regulations, were sufficient causes to excite your feelings; we nevertheless are of opinion that the notification of the intended suspension of the trade, and your determination to abandon the Factory, were measures adopted with unnecessary precipitation, and that the circumstances did not call for your publication of a contemplated measure against which we have so repeatedly and so strongly cautioned you. We consequently received with much satisfaction the intelligence announced in your despatch of the 10th June, and we entirely approve of the determination you came to of withdrawing the conditional notice, that the trade would be suspended on the 1st August. This satisfaction is, however, considerably lessened by the concluding terms of your last notice, recommending all British residents in Canton "to exert every means in their power to recover such property belonging to them as at present is in possession of natives of this country." Combining this circumstance with the sentiments expressed to the Bengal government in your letter of the 26th May last already noticed, we feel it necessary to convey to you explicit directions for the conduct of your future proceedings.

65. The commerce between Great Britain and China is too important to be put to hazard without the most urgent and imperious necessity, and on no account

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* Whose place is at the heel.

† Term for servant; corrupted from the English word.

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upon considerations of a personal nature. It is of essential moment to the Indian as well as to the home revenues, both as regards the State and the East India Company, as well as in the regular supply of the British public of an article of general consumption.

66. We sought that trade originally: the advantages which it has yielded have induced us to exert every endeavour to secure its continuance. Those exertions have been attended with success; and although late events have led to the expression of opinions in favour of a more decided and less pacific course of policy, we are by no means prepared to adopt or to act upon such opinions.

67. To attempt to maintain a purely commercial intercourse, such as that with China, by force of arms, would, in a pecuniary point of view, be anything rather than a matter of profit, even if justice and humanity could allow us for a moment seriously to contemplate such a step. We cannot, in fairness, deny to China the right which our own nation exercises as she sees fit, either by prohibiting, restraining, or subjecting to certain laws and regulations its commercial dealings with other countries. China must be considered free in the exercise of her affairs, without being accountable to any other nation; and it must be remembered that she has rejected every effort made by us, as well as by almost every other European state, to form a commercial intercourse with her upon those principles which govern commercial relations with other countries.

68. It is our desire that you sedulously endeavour to avoid entering into any discussions with the Chinese government, except in cases of absolute necessity; and should such cases unhappily occur, we enjoin you to carry them on with temper and moderation, and that you close them at the earliest possible period.

69. Another point to which we feel it necessary particularly to advert is, the disposition evinced by you to seek the aid of His Majesty's ships of war in supporting your measures.

70. The appearance of King's ships in China, from the commencement of our trade with Canton to the present time, has very frequently occasioned the greatest embarrassment, often leading to lengthened and difficult discussions (even with reference to the procuring supplies only for such ships), and not unfrequently to a stoppage of that trade, and consequently to great pecuniary loss.

71. In 1818 we felt it necessary, with regard to the request you had made to the captain of His Majesty's ship "Orlando," to anchor at Chuenpee, and if requisite to proceed to Whampoa, in support of the measures you had adopted in aid of the country traders, and also regarding the suggestion you had ventured to make to Admiral Sir Richard King to visit China annually, to express our strong feeling of disapprobation, and to state that we had "with difficulty been prevented from making an immediate application to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for orders, to be issued to Sir Richard King, directing that officer by no means to comply with your suggestion for a man-of-war to be sent annually to China and the other places mentioned in your letter to that officer."

72. The evil was, however, so seriously felt on the occasion of the affair of the "Topaze" frigate, in 1824, causing a stoppage of the trade for some months, that we, immediately on the receipt of the intelligence, made a communication to His Majesty's Ministers, which led to the Lords of the Admiralty issuing orders to the naval commander-in-chief in India, "that in future, during peace, none of His Majesty's vessels of war should visit any port of China, unless on a requisition from the Governor-General of India, or from the Select Committee of Supracargoes at Canton."

73. At the same time that the determination of the Lords of the Admiralty was announced to you, we also informed you, "that in a letter to Bengal, conveying copies of the correspondence with the Admiralty, we have enjoined that government carefully to abstain from requiring any ship in His Majesty's service to proceed to China, unless in case of indispensable necessity;" and we likewise enjoined you, that "nothing but an occurrence of vital importance, and of the most urgent necessity, should induce you to forward any requisition to the government of Bengal, or to the naval commander-in-chief in India, for the dispatch of any of His Majesty's ships to China during a period of peace."

74. With these facts upon record, we decidedly condemn the requisition you made to the Bengal government for the aid of ships of war, and more especially your communication of that requisition to his Excellency Admiral Sir Edward Owen. We trust, however, that the Vice-President in Council, to whom your letter was addressed (the Governor-General being up the country), will have been guided

guided by the sound and judicious views expressed by Lord William Bentinck, in his minute of the 3d April 1830, on the occasion of a similar request on the part of your predecessors.

75. We so fully approve of his Lordship's views, that we have caused a copy of that minute to be sent a number in the present packet for your information.

76. On your Consultations of the 6th January 1831, you state, with reference to the claims of British subjects on the native merchants, "that as the Committee were the representatives not only of the East India Company but of the *British nation*, it became an important part of their duty to protect British subjects from being treated with injustice, to the utmost extent of their ability." It is essential that you should clearly understand that you are not the representatives of the British nation, but of the East India Company, in whom the exclusive trade with China has been vested by Parliament. The assumption of the character of British representatives has increased the difficulties experienced in the various discussions which have arisen with the local authorities, more particularly those in which His Majesty's ships have been concerned. When, on such occasions, you have disavowed to the Chinese authorities all right of interference with the captains of ships of war, those authorities have urged the impossibility of your not having power, as the *representatives* of the *British nation*, over all ships belonging to your country.

77. It is a notion too commonly entertained and acted upon by you, and encouraged by foreign merchants residing at Canton, that nothing is to be gained from the Chinese by obedience to their laws and edicts, but that much may be obtained by intimidation; you may have succeeded for the moment in setting the government at defiance, but that government has not only taken the first opportunity to assert its dominion, but also with the view of making you feel the consequences of disobedience, it had almost invariably deprived you of some advantages which it had either tacitly or avowedly yielded to friendly remonstrances. The proceedings as to Macao in 1809, and those now under review, fully bear out this observation.

78. We cannot pass over without remark the proceedings of the British private Merchants resident in China. We waive for the present the question as to the circumstances under which those parties have become residents in that country; but we are forcibly struck with the terms in which they have addressed the Chinese authorities, and we must add, the unwarrantable freedom with which they comment upon the laws and regulations of an empire to which they have voluntarily resorted, and that for their own advantage.

79. There is a material distinction between lending your aid in matters purely commercial, and in appearing to be parties to resolutions and representations couched in terms of open defiance and hostility to the laws and regulations of the country. We consider the resolutions of the Merchants of the 30th May, and their addresses to the Foo Yuen and the Hoppo, decidedly open to these objections. We by no means imply that you sought the approbation of those Merchants as expressed in their resolutions above noted; but as it is possible you may be considered a party thereto by the Chinese, we desire that you will carefully abstain from any interference in the concerns of the Merchants which do not fall within the obvious intent of our instructions in the 7th paragraph of our letter of the 26th May 1830, wherein we stated that we should not withhold our approbation to a discreet and prudent exercise of the influence you may possess with the local authorities in favour of those merchants.

80. We received with your Secretary's letter of the 22d July a pamphlet, entitled "Remarks upon the late Proceedings of the Select Committee, and the Suspension of the Trade." Although the pamphlet is stated to have been issued from the American press at Canton, there is no mark whatever to designate it as coming from such a source; we were not aware that there was such an establishment as an American press in China. When we reflect upon the difficulties which have arisen from our press at Macao, originally sent out for the sole purpose of printing the Chinese dictionary by Dr. Morrison, and when we consider the jealousy of the Chinese at any measures which are calculated to facilitate the diffusion of opinions amongst the lower order of their countrymen, of whose intrigue and dissatisfaction much apprehension appears to be entertained, it is important that our Factory should stand clear from any suspicion of being parties to such publications.

81. It is stated in the notice of the proposals for establishing a new weekly paper, to be called "The Chinese Courier," that the "advocates of free discussion will now

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Court of Directors
to the
Select Committee
of Supracargoes,
13 January 1832.

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to the
Select Committee
of Supracargoes,
13 January 1832.

be enabled to communicate their sentiments to the public under no restrictions but those of truth and decency." The tenor of the observations contained in the pamphlet before us evince so little respect for the constituted native authorities, and the opinions advanced in it are so totally at variance with the principles upon which we have determined that our affairs shall be conducted, that had we not already fully communicated to you, in our despatch of the 18th April 1828 (paragraphs 4 to 9), our sentiments with reference to abstaining from all connection with the Canton Gazette, or with any other literary publication in China, we should have no hesitation in desiring that the members of our Factory should be no parties in any way whatever to the publication of the proposed newspaper. In the event, however, of that publication taking place by the Americans, we desire that you act upon the instructions of 1828, in notifying to the authorities at Canton that you have no connection whatever with it.

82. It now only remains for us to express our concurrence in the intimation given by the Chairman and Deputy-Chairman as to the shipment of the winter teas, and most particularly to the injunction at the conclusion of their letter, "against your adopting any course of policy which is likely to involve us in hostilities with the Chinese, without the most distinct and positive orders from this country." The preservation of the national honour is in the hands of His Majesty's Government, and it must be for the King's Ministers alone to take the responsibility of deciding upon the adoption of extreme measures for vindicating that honour, if insulted. Those measures, if resorted to, will most materially affect the valuable interests at present dependant upon a peaceful prosecution of our intercourse with China.

We are your loving friends, &c.

(signed)

R. Campbell,
J. G. Ravenshaw,
J. Morris,
W. S. Clarke,
J. P. Muspratt,
G. Lyall,
H. Shank,
W. Wigram,
C. Mills,

(signed)

J. D. Alexander,
H. Alexander,
N. B. Edmonstone,
J. Baillie,
H. Lindsay,
W. Young,
G. Raikes,
H. St. G. Tucker.

London, 13 January 1832.

— No. 5. —

EXTRACTS from the CHINA CONSULTATIONS and other DOCUMENTS relating to the Despatches to and from China.

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 2d September 1828.

No. 5.
Extracts from
China
Consultations,
2 September 1828.

THE anxiety evinced by the government to commence unloading our ships holds out to us a favourable opportunity for gaining their sanction to a plan which we had devised in the month of February, and had *already carried partially into effect*, for improving the access to the stairs of the Company's Factory in Canton, when the work was unexpectedly interrupted by the interference of the Nan-hey-yuen.

In order to explain the nature and necessity of the projected improvement, it is necessary to enter into a general description of the locality of the premises alluded to.

After the fire of Canton in the year 1822, the whole of the ruins and rubbish, which could be appropriated to no useful purpose, were thrown promiscuously into the river, at a distance of perhaps 50 yards above the Company's Loun Shun Factory, whereby a projection of ground was formed in the river of considerable extent. From this circumstance, the violence of the current has been increased in proportion to the narrowness of the channel; and the tide encountering the obstacle above described, in its progress down the river, is thrown upon the opposite bank, the buildings situated upon which have suffered considerable dilapidations in their foundations. In the meanwhile the river has gradually deserted the bank which is below, and is upon the same side with the projection or mound of dirt; and the loose

loose fragments and sand washed away from the foot of it have further contributed to cause the water to shoal in front of our Factories. The inconvenience of this was so seriously felt during the last season, that chop boats laden with bales of woollens and other merchandize to be deposited in our warehouse could only approach the stairs at particular periods of the tide, which considerably retarded the delivery of their cargoes; and we determined in the month of February last to avail ourselves of the leisure afforded by the absence of our ships during the summer, for carrying out the quay and stairs to such a distance as would enable a laden cargo-boat to lay alongside the steps at low water.

Having communicated our views upon this subject to the Merchants, with a proposal that the matter should be represented to government previously to entering upon the operations, the former assured us that no necessity existed for a formal representation of the case to the local authorities, who might possibly, upon the affair being brought in so formal a manner to their notice, oppose obstacles to the completion of the works, which if no such application were made would be regarded as of minor importance. We still expressed to the Merchants our reluctance to enter upon this undertaking without the sanction previously obtained of the government; but having received from them the strongest assurances that they would hold themselves responsible for its success, and having been requested by them not to address the government upon the subject, we yielded the point to what we considered a better knowledge of the forms and usages of the country; and the projected improvements were accordingly commenced with such activity as promised a speedy accomplishment of the object in view; the Merchants having agreed to meet the principal expense of the undertaking.

In the middle of the month of March last, when the one side of the new quay was already completed, and the other in a state of forwardness, the continuation of the work was unexpectedly and entirely put a stop to by the Nan-hey-yuen, a head police magistrate; and although we have since that period been constantly representing to the Merchants the absolute necessity of completing the stairs thus abandoned in a state which renders them perfectly unavailable for the transport of cargo from the boats to the warehouses, no attempt has yet been made upon their part to resume the operations.

The attention of Nan-hey-yuen to this subject is said to have been excited by representations which have been made of the encroachment of the northern bank of the river upon the channel, and the consequent undermining of the southern bank; but it is sufficiently evident to us who have observed the change that has gradually taken place since the fire, that the injury done to the navigation of the river has resulted entirely from the remissness of the officer above-named in allowing the heaps of rubbish and ruins to be thrown down upon the banks, from whence they roll into the bed of the river. The attention of the Merchants has been repeatedly called to the circumstance, both as it affects the current and shoals the northern banks, and also as it has proved an asylum for many beggars and vagabonds of Canton, which forms a loathsome if not a pestilential nuisance to the Foreign Factories.

As far, however, as the question regards the access to the stairs of our Factory, we consider we stand upon grounds which are tenable upon the principles of conducting a material share of our commerce here with convenience and security, in addition to the assurance given by the Merchants, upon the faith of which we receded from our original intention of procuring the formal sanction of the government; we determined therefore to inform the Merchants that we see no reason at present to unload the cargo of our direct ships, and that the present state of the stairs in front of the Factories rendering the approach of chop boats impracticable, we shall not give orders for the delivery of any European merchandize till the quay is put into such a state of completion as will render the landing of goods upon it convenient, and unattended with danger to the property.

We approve of the following reply to the Merchants upon this subject, which will be forwarded immediately:

“ To the Hong Merchants, &c. &c.

“ Gentlemen,

“ YESTERDAY we received your letter of the 18th of the 7th moon, communicating the Hoppo's requisition to urge and impel the Company's ships containing woollens to unload.

“ Several months ago, in consequence of the water being so shallow at the Com-

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pany's landing-place, we requested the Hong Merchants to remove it a little further out; after this, government, by minute and vexatious interference, put a stop to the work, and up to this moment it is not finished. Without a landing-place, how can the ships unload?

"We hereby request you to inform government, that after the landing-place is completed we may then unload the ships.

"Macao,
3 September 1828." }

"With compliments,
(signed) "By Committee."

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 4th September 1828.

The following has been received from the Merchants.

"A RESPECTFUL Reply. On the 21st we received yours concerning the Company's landing place. The delay has not been from any delay on our part. On the 21st of the sixth moon we petitioned the Nan-hey magistrate, and requested directions. He forthwith represented it, and received the Governor's order to refer to the Treasurer to send an officer to examine the premises, deliberate, and report the facts.

"The Treasurer has deputed the assistant grain-keeper, with the Nan-hey and Pooyu magistrate to examine.

"Probably in a day or so they will do so; and as soon as the examination, deliberation, and decision are over, if allowed, we will begin immediately and hasten the work.

Received
the 4th September 1828.

"With compliments, &c.
(signed) Howqua, junior,
&c. &c."

The delays of office alluded to promise neither a speedy nor effectual accomplishment of the object of our Letter and Consultation, recorded upon the 2d instant. We must await the decision of the officers nominated to examine the premises, which may somewhat regulate our proceedings in any representation to the government which the circumstances may render desirable; for the present, however, we can only adhere to the determination recorded under that date, to abstain from taking any measures for the delivery of the cargoes of our direct ships, till the orders of government are received for putting the quay in an efficient state.

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 14th October 1828.

THE state of the square in front of the Company's Factory affords a further instance of the inimicable disposition of the Viceroy towards Foreigners. The locality of these premises has already been fully described, under date the 2d September last, and requires no further explanation. The evil, if any can arise from the operations carried on upon the spot, a position however which we by no means admit, has already taken place; and the present opposition to put the premises in a decent and available condition arises solely from a predetermination to give annoyance, by perpetuating the disorderly and disagreeable state of the ground, while at the same time the system universally adhered to by this government, of degrading Foreigners in the eyes of the natives, is supported by this arbitrary exercise of power.

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 14th October 1828.

EXTRACT ETTER from the Select Committee to the Governor of Canton,
dated 13th October 1828.

FOREIGNERS are cooped up in a very small space at Shapsam Hong*. The square before their dwellings was covered for two or three years with most offensive filth, and lamentably wretched lepers. An endeavour during this year was made

* Foreign Factories.

to clear the square of such nuisances, and afford a wholesome promenade, as Foreigners are not allowed to go into the country; but at the suggestion of a petty custom-house officer (who was moved by malice, because he shared not in the fees,) every improvement was put a stop to, and the English Company have not at this hour a landing-place fit to be used.

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EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 17th October 1828.

Howqua called upon the President, and informed him that he had been sent for by the Viceroy, and had had a long private audience with him on the subject of our late address: he stated that the Viceroy had given directions for the immediate commencement of operations in the square in front of the Company's Factory, and had expressed much displeasure at the delay which had been occasioned by the Nan-hey-yuen, in carrying into effect the orders which he had previously given upon the subject.

18th Oct.—A pledge of this officer's* disposition to accommodate matters has been given by a deputation of the Nan-hey-yuen to our Factory, to give directions for the renewal of the works upon the landing-place, which will be resumed forthwith.

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 22d October 1828.

THE Merchants were summoned to attend the Committee in consequence of the following circumstances:

Last night two boats containing cornelian beads were seized by the custom-house runners at the landing place in front of the Company's Factory. The Chinese in charge of the boats made their escape; but it has been ascertained that the goods were sold from the country ship Sarah, of the presidency of Bombay, to the people attached to the Hoppo boat, and were the property of a Parsee named Cowasjee. The ship is secured by Kinqa.

We informed the Merchants that we had requested their attendance to state to them the above fact, and to show them how necessary it appears that our landing-place should be secured by gates, and the space in front of our Factory surrounded by walls, to prevent the repetition of similar offences upon our premises.

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 21st November 1828.

THE following Edict has been received from the Merchants. It has been published by the Nan-hey-yuen, and relates to the improvements undertaken upon the quay in front of our Factories, which are publicly licensed by this document.

Lah, Nan-hae-heen, &c., to the Hong Merchants, for their full information.

"I have received an official document from the Treasurer, as follows:

"On the 12th day of the ninth moon of the eighth year of Taow Kwang, I received a reply from Le, Governor of the Foo Kwangs, ordering me to depute officers to examine the space where mud has accumulated in front of the Foreign Factories, which it was requested to fill up with wood and stones. I, the Treasurer, find that the new space in front of the Company's Foreign Factory extends beyond the old grounds, and the said place is the spot where Foreigners land and embark. The Kwang-chow-foo has examined and measured it very accurately, which has been engraven on stone, to establish the boundary. This is on record. Now, since the ground is uneven, and not level, it is right to lay down stones and wood, in order to build a landing-place to enable the Foreigners to land and embark, and that goods may be carried across, so that they may not experience difficulties. After deliberation, it was requested, that where the new accumulation had taken place it might be made with stones, and where water remained at the bottom, covered over with wooden planks. Leang Chow, and others who were deputed, examined and ascertained that it was all within the boundary of the new space where mud had collected, and which had before been examined, and that there was no encroachment or building out beyond. It appeared right to condescend, and grant the request, and within the limits of the newly-accumulated ground to allow a landing-place to

* The Viceroy.

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be built with wood and stones, to enable both foreign boats to anchor, and people to land and embark. Whether or not this may be approved, it was right that I should take the circumstances of the Weiyuen's examination and reply, investigate them, and deliberate, and make a clear statement to the Governor, and wait until he has inquired minutely, and has issued a reply ordering obedience to it. The reply has been received: 'Let it be as you have stated; and communicate the order, that it may be obeyed; besides waiting till the Deputy Governor issues his reply.' The Foo Yuen's reply has likewise been received. 'Let it be as you have stated; order obedience to this; but wait for the Governor's reply,' &c. I, the Treasurer, on receiving these, as is right, have framed an official letter to the Heing, instantly to order the Hong Merchants, Howqua, &c. to act in obedience to it, and forthwith to take the newly-accumulated ground in front of the Company's Foreign Factory within the boundary, and build a landing place with wood and stones, so that foreign boats can anchor, and people land and embark; but it is not permitted to encroach and build in other places, which will involve examination and inquiry. The said Hein must communicate this to the Kwang Leang Tung Puan and to the Puan Yu heen, for their information. There must be no opposition, &c. &c.

"On receiving this, I, the Heen, as is proper, issue an order, on receiving which the Hong Merchants must act in obedience to it, and take the newly-accumulated ground in front of the Company's Foreign Factory within the boundary, and build a landing-place with wood and stones, so that foreign boats can anchor and people land and embark; but they must not make pretexts to usurp, encroach and build in other places, which will involve an inquiry and investigation.

"Do not oppose.

Special Edict."

"Taow Kwang, 8th year, 10th moon, 2d day," (8th Nov. 1828.)

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 20th February 1829.

A PART of the space in the the front of the Factories remaining still in an unfinished state, and having experienced some inconvenience from the free passage offered to strangers through that part of our premises, we determine to address the Viceroy upon the subject previous to departing from Canton; and to request that his Excellency will be pleased forthwith to sanction the completion of the work, and the surrounding the same with a wall to prevent the liability to the annoyance which we have stated above, and render the ground private and appropriate as a place of exercise for the use of the gentlemen of the Factory. The following address to the Viceroy on the subject being approved, will be presented immediately.

"Messrs. Plowden, President, and the Select Committee, &c. to his Excellency the Governor of Canton, &c. &c.

"Sir,

"During many years past we have had a piece of ground enclosed before the Company's Factory, as the Dutch Factory also has. Last year, in consequence of the water being too shallow to permit large boats to land cargo, it was found necessary to carry the quay a little further out.

"Whilst doing, misapprehension arose, and a false accusation was made, that we were unnecessarily encroaching on the river. After some time, your Excellency was pleased to order the repairs to be finished. These have in a great degree been completed, but we still experience much inconvenience from want of the former enclosure. In the day-time rude natives, instead of going to the public landing-place, put on shore at the landing-place pertaining to our Factory, and insult us on our own premises; and during the night abandoned people, from there being no surrounding wall, sometimes steal our property, sometimes smuggle, or carry on other illicit practices.

"Not long ago a smuggling transaction on this ground was detected by government, and the name of the Company for a time implicated. For the above-mentioned reasons, and that we may be enabled to take a little exercise morning and evening before our own Factory, unmolested by idle people, we earnestly entreat your Excellency to grant us permission to enclose the space immediately in front of our own Factory, down to the river side, with a wall and gates, by which to carry out and in cargo, as was formerly the case. Thus our persons will enjoy tranquillity, our property

property be safe, and we shall not be implicated by the illegalities of other people.

“ With all due reverence we lay this request before your Excellency, and solicit your liberal and gracious compliance with the tenor thereof, for which we shall be infinitely grateful.

“ February 20th, 1829, 9th year, 1st moon, 7th day.

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EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 11th March 1829.

EXTRACT LETTER from the Hong Merchants to the Select Committee, dated 7th March 1829.

THE affair of the Company's landing-place in Canton being surrounded with a wall was, on the 1st of the 2d moon, attended to by the Governor sending out the Kwang-choo-foo and Nan-hae-yuen in person to the Company's landing-place to examine it and understand the case clearly. When we are informed officially what is to be done we will write again to let you know.

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 7th April 1829.

WE have received the following Edict prohibiting the alterations which we were desirous of completing in the square in the front of the Factory, and which are in fact necessary to prevent the continued ingress and egress of the Chinese, as well as to put a stop to the repetition of the attempts at smuggling which occurred during the last year, and which the unenclosed state of the premises in question, and perfect freedom of access from the river, afford very favourable means of executing. Another transaction of a similar nature might involve the name of the Company, or seriously implicate the Compradores and others in our service, however innocent they might be. It will remain for us at a future opportunity, to endeavour to attain the desirable object in view, and to place our premises in the same secure state that they were previous to the recent alterations.

Government Order, interdicting the Square being enclosed by a Wall, and the corner now planked being filled up.—Received at Macao 7th April, dated 31st March 1829 :

“ Sen, the acting Nan-hey-yuen, to the Hong Merchants.

“ A document from the Quang-choo-foo has now been received by him from the Treasurer, which enclosed one received by him from the Governor, which enclosed one received by him from Yen, the Hoppo, which reads as follows :

“ On the 12th of the 1st moon of the 9th year of Taow Kwang, I received from your Honour the Governor a communication, of which the following is a copy :

“ The English Chief, Plowden, and the others, have presented a petition, stating [Here follows a copy of the Committee's letter.]

“ This coming before me, the Governor, I find that the case of a wall on the west side of the ground in front of the Company's Hong, to separate the Chinese and Foreign landing-place, has come before me, and is on record. On that occasion I directed the Kwang-choo-foo, with the Nan-hey-yuen, to examine the place. They reported, that in front of the Factory there were old foundations, measuring from north to south 115 covids five puntos; and on the west side there was a wall. At present, in front of the old ground, there is a piece of new ground 116 covids, and on the west side a new wall. On the east side of it is the Foreign landing-place, and on the west side the Hog-lane Chinese landing-place. Both the new and old wall are intended to separate the Chinese and Foreigners, and is no impediment to the river: we request it may not be ordered to be pulled down. As to the east and south sides, that no further enclosing be allowed. At that time, I, the Governor, ordered a Proclamation to interdict any further encroachments, and that stones should be erected to back the bounds: these proceedings are on record. The Chief and his colleagues now again petitioning and requesting to have a wall around as formerly, and a gate to open and shut, without stating all the facts

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and pointing out the proceedings, clearly indicates a great deal of reservation to confuse the affair. It is right, however, to order another examination, and to act according to the facts; I therefore order the Kwang-choo-foo to take with him the Nan-hey-yuen, and order the attendance of the Hong Merchants, Howqua (junior), &c.; then to go and examine whether the Foreigners want to open a gate in the western wall; or whether, in wilful opposition to the orders of government, they wish to add to the enclosure and open a gate. Let an examination be made immediately, and the facts clearly ascertained; and also let a drawing be made and laid before me, that I may decide according to the real state of the case. Besides doing so, I make a communication to the Hoppo that he may examine into the circumstances.

"This coming before me, the Hoppo, I have examined, and find that the Foreign Factories are on a line with the Custom-house. If they be allowed to build a wall all around it will obstruct the view from the Custom-house, and be an impediment to the attendants keeping a look-out from thence. It is inexpedient to allow it. This is the answer which I have to return, &c.

"This coming before me, the Governor, I find that the Kwang-choo-foo and Nan-hey-yuen reported that they had inquired and ascertained that the Foreigners wanted to add a wall on the east and south sides, and then open gates; but this is a wilful disobedience to government orders. It is right to disallow of making any more additions, and so eradicate nefarious tricks, besides giving orders on the subject, requiring obedience thereto. I write to the Treasurer, that he may hasten, in conformity to my decision, to enjoin the Kwang-choo-foo to command the Nan-hey-yuen to order the Merchants to communicate the commands of Government to the said Foreigners, that they may one and all yield implicit obedience thereto."

On the same day was received the formal decision of Le, Governor of Canton [Here the whole of the above is gone over again], and it is added, that the request is "A wilful opposition to the orders of government, an irregular indulgence of inordinate expectations, and must positively be disallowed. The said Foreigners, as is suitable, must reverently yield obedience, for they will not be allowed in a clandestine manner to add any more buildings. If they presume to oppose, the Hong Merchants alone will be held responsible. Natives must be prohibited from landing on the west side at the Foreigners' stairs (or Malow), or creating any disturbance. On the east side, the planks laid down must be kept as heretofore, and the place not filled up with sand or stones, that encroachment may be completely prevented. This decision is ordered to be recorded, and communicated to the Hoppo; and the drawing or plan taken when the place was examined must also be preserved." [After this the same decision, in the same words, is twice again by other officers reiterated, forbidding the wall to be built or the planks to be removed.]

"Taow Kwang, 9th year, 2d moon, 28th day."

The note from the Merchants states, in the usual manner, that they enclose a copy of the Government Order, and request obedience to it.

Dated 2d moon, 29th day.
(1st April 1829.)

(signed) *Howqua* (junior), &c. &c.
With their Ciphers.

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 15th April 1829.

WE record an Edict which has been issued by the Nan-hey-yuen, interdicting the Chinese from landing at the Factory Stairs at Canton. Such an order, although it may possibly be of momentary utility, can have no permanent effect in remedying the evil complained of.

Translation of a Proclamation issued by Nan-hey-yuen, dated 1st April, received from Aming, the Compradore, 15th April, prohibiting natives landing at the Company's Stairs in Canton, &c.

"Sue, the acting Nan-hey-yuen, &c. hereby issued an Interdict to be strictly enforced.

"At the front of the English Company's Factory, where an accumulation of mud has formed, a piece of new ground is the place where the said Foreigners land and embark.

embark. It has been examined by government, and they have been allowed to repair it with wood and stones. On the west side is the landing-place of Hog-lane (Suig tan lan) for the Chinese. The wall that has been built up on the boundary was to separate the Chinese from the Foreigners, and prevent disturbance; but of late the said nation's chief, Plowden, and his colleagues, represented that at the Company's landing-place nefarious natives landed, presumed to enter and make disturbance, and therefore they earnestly requested that on the east and south sides they might be permitted to build walls, in order to separate the two parties, &c. I, the Nan-hey-yuen, followed the Kwang-choo-foo to examine the premises, and reported to the Governor, whose official reply disallowed the building of additional walls; but it also directed that Chinese should be prohibited from walking on the said Company's landing-place, or making any disturbance there. Having received these orders, I now issue a strict interdict, proclaiming to all sorts of persons, that hereafter all goods or other things that may be landed or embarked in the front of Shapsam Hong must pass up and down at the Hog-lane Wharf; they must not pass at the Company's landing-place, nor occasion any disturbance there. If any person presume to disobey this order, the police and constables (Trepon) of that district are permitted to point out to government the names of the offenders, that they may be prosecuted. Let every one implicitly obey this Order.

“ Taow Kwang, 9th year, 2d moon, 28th day.”

No. 5.
Extracts from
China
Consultations,
15 April 1829.

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 27th February 1830.

THE ground in the front of our Factories, which has so frequently been alluded to upon our records, remaining still partly unfinished, we have repeatedly requested the Merchants to have the premises put in a state of completion. Howqua has promised to represent the subject in a proper light to the Viceroy, and we have been patiently awaiting the result of this application since our arrival in Canton. The following Proclamation has now been received from Governor Le, without date. Received 27th February 1830.

“ An official Reply.—During the 8th and 9th years Taow Kwang, the Kwang-choo-foo and others were repeatedly deputed to examine the ground in front of the Company's Foreign Factories, and reported that the east and south sides ought not to have a wall and gate; also that the place on the east side where boards were should not be allowed to be filled up with sand and stones, to the end that encroachment might be radically prevented. These orders were issued, and obedience required, as appear on record.

“ But ere one year has elapsed, these Foreigners all at once (because their request to have warehouses was disallowed) now entreat to have a wall built and a gate set up, and that the boards may be exchanged for stones. This really is perverse obstinacy.

“ It is hereby ordered, that commands be enjoined on the said Foreigners to obey implicitly prohibitory edicts. They must not indulge irregular and scheming expectations. If they presume to offer intentional disobedience, the said Hong Merchants alone shall be responsible. Paste this (reply) to their petition, and throw it back.”

As every attempt to gain this point has failed by application to the government, we must adopt other means to effect it. The spot in question presents a serious impediment to the landing of cargo, and is becoming in itself a disgusting nuisance, as the only piece of ground which we possess for taking exercise. The absence of any enclosure on the east and south sides render the premises public, and exposed to the incursions of smugglers during the night; we therefore determine to remove the inconvenience, by ordering a detachment of boats and seamen from our ships, by whom the cavity remaining will be filled from a heap of rubbish in the neighbourhood, and a fence erected to prevent intrusion.

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 2d March 1830.

No. 5.
Extracts from
China
Consultations,
2 March 1830.

IN the absence of Captain Hine, who has proceeded for a few days to Macao, we have requested Captain Haviside to superintend the operations necessary for completing the ground in the front of the Factory, according to the plan stated, under date the 27th ultimo, and furnish him with the following order to the commanders of the H. C. ships, for carrying that measure into effect.

“ To the Commanders of the H. C. Ships.

“ Gentlemen,

“ I am directed to convey to you the orders of the President and Select Committee to furnish Captain Haviside with the assistance of a large cutter or launch, and a competent crew, containing a carpenter or carpenter's mate, to be employed in filling up and levelling the unfinished part of the premises in front of the Company's Factory, and erecting a fence in continuation of the wall on the east side of the ground.

“ Captain Haviside will inform you at what time and place the boats will be required.

“ Canton, }
2 March 1830.” }

“ I am, &c.
(signed) “ John Jackson.”

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 4th March 1830.

A DETACHMENT of boats and seamen from the H. C. ships arrived in Canton last night to be employed in the completion of the premises in the front of our Factory. Great progress has already been made by the people, under the able superintendence of Captain Haviside and the officers of the H. C. ships, in the work allotted to them, and we hope by the middle of the day to-morrow the ground will be levelled, and a fence erected, to render it private and secure.

The Merchants waited upon us this morning, and requested us to issue immediate orders for suspending the operations, which they asserted would reflect discredit upon the Chinese government, who had refused to sanction the undertaking. We informed them in reply, that we had not resorted to the means now employed to remove the nuisance complained of till every endeavour to attain that object by other measures had failed; and that we felt convinced the Viceroy could not be aware of the actual circumstances of the case, which it was their duty to have stated properly to his Excellency; that such a line of conduct would have superseded the necessity of our requiring the assistance of the seamen from our ships; and that the culpability, if any could accrue from such an insignificant question, must rest with themselves. We added at the same time, that we could by no means agree to desist from the undertaking, which a few hours would now bring to a close.

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 5th March 1830.

WE were informed this morning by the Merchants, that the Kwang-choo-foo intended visiting the ground in the front of the Factories. We expressed ourselves gratified at the circumstance, by which we conceive the government will become acquainted with the actual state of the case. This, we are persuaded, has been either misrepresented by inferior officers, or misunderstood by the Viceroy. The ground having been now levelled, and a fence erected by the carpenters on the east side, we have no further occasion for the services of the party from the ships, who will return in the afternoon to Whampoa and Second Bar. We think it proper to notice here an instance of the shameful negligence of the government police with respect to the ground in the front of the other foreign Factories, and which serves to demonstrate the condition to which Europeans are reduced in this country, where the remedy of evils is left to the discretion of government. To fill up the cavity which existed in the premises of the Company's Factory, we had recourse to a heap of rubbish which had been gradually collected at a distance of not more than fifty yards from the small Factory of the Company. This accumulation of filth has become the asylum of lepers and the most wretched beggars, with whom this city
abounds,

abounds, and presents altogether a most loathsome scene. In removing the rubbish for the purpose above mentioned, three or four corpses were found with a covering of not more than three or four feet of loose material upon them. This spot, during the south-west monsoon, is directly to windward of the Factories, and about fifty yards distant. The disgusting nuisances which exist there are considered by medical persons likely to breed pestilence.

The Kwang-choo-foo visited the premises in the front of the Factories this evening. He was accompanied by the Quang Hip and Nan-hey-yuen. He inspected the spot in question; and then sent a message, the purport of which was not very intelligible, to the President. He retired after a short time, apparently apprehensive of a disturbance resulting from a very numerous crowd of natives who were assembled.

The Merchants waited upon us in the evening, and stated they had received the Kwang-choo-foo's orders to hollow out the ground which had been levelled, and reduce it to its original state. This proposition was too ridiculous to be discussed, and was admitted by some of the Merchants, after the conference was broken up, to be a mere matter of form, to support the consistency of the government. We conceive, therefore, that the matter may be considered terminated.

As a remuneration to the seamen, by whom the laborious part of the service above mentioned was performed with great alacrity, we make a donation to them at the rate of two dollars per man, to which their exertions have justly entitled them.

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 8th March 1830.

WE record an Edict issued by the Viceroy respecting parties of seamen coming to Canton. We understand that this Proclamation is a mere form. It has reference to the party lately employed to complete the premises in front of the Factory, and is probably an expedient to support the character of the government, which has certainly fallen in the estimation both of natives and foreigners, by their absurd opposition on an occasion of such trivial importance. Even the Merchants do not hesitate to speak of it in terms of derision.

(From the Governor, dated 6th March, received 8th, 1830.)

“ Le, Governor, &c. to the Hong Merchants, hereby issues his Commands.

“ It appears that Foreign ships coming to the inner waters of Canton Province are permitted to anchor only at Whampoa, and the sailors ought to dwell on board their ships. The law does not allow that they should assume to go up to Canton City; and even the Foreign Merchants, if they happen to have business that requires their coming up to Canton, ought to go to the Whampoa Custom-house, and request to be examined and let pass. This is an old fixed regulation which it is impossible to allow to be deranged. But of late I have found that the English Foreigners at every turn lead scores or a hundred sailors or more, and presume of their own accord to proceed to Canton, in disobedience to the prohibitions of the Celestial Empire, which shows extreme wilfulness and craftiness. I instantly command the Hong Merchants to convey my orders to the Chief and others, requiring their obedience.

“ Hereafter, when Foreign ships enter the port, the sailors must all dwell on board ship at Whampoa. It must not be that a number of sailors are ordered up to Canton at the same time. If the said Foreigners presume still to disobey, then it will be a wilful opposition to the orders of government; in which case I will assuredly order the forts and the military to fire upon them. Positively, I will show no indulgence; as my words go forth the law shall follow. Let the said Foreign Merchants and sailors take care, and not bring guilt upon themselves, so that they will have to repent when it is too late. Tremble at this. Intense! Intense! is this Edict.”

“ Taow Kwang, 10th year, 2d moon, 12th day.”

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Extracts from
China
Consultations,
23 April 1830.

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 23d April 1830.

By the following letter received this morning, we learn that the Hong Merchants have taken advantage of our absence to remove from the enclosure in front of the Factory a portion of earth which we were obliged to lay down in order to level the premises and fill up the cavity which has long been an impediment to the landing of goods, and a source of serious annoyance. The orders issued by the Kwang-choo-foo, to restore this nuisance, and cover the surface of the hollow with planks as before, are represented by the Merchants as imperative; and they have accordingly felt it necessary to make a demonstration of obedience. As we cannot accurately ascertain the extent of the mischief, we shall refrain for the present from noticing this offensive proceeding, which we can only attribute to an obstinate desire on the part of government to humiliate Foreigners in the eyes of the people, and circumscribe within the narrowest limits the little space allotted for our recreation.

(From the Hong Merchants, dated April 21st, received 23d, 1830.)

“ A respectful Notification. Concerning your having removed the boards from the east side of the ground in front of the Company’s Factory, and filled up the space with earth, the Governor sent out the Kwang-choo-foo and Kwang-hëe to examine the place on foot; and an order was issued to dig up the earth again immediately, and cover the space over with boards, as before. At that time we petitioned for the term of 10 days to prevent its being instantly dug up. This, gentlemen, you already know. After the 10 days had elapsed, we, in consequence of cargo being landed and shipped off, saw the impediment to digging it up then, and again solicited for an extension of the term, and had to thank the officers of government for graciously allowing us 10 days more. The term has already expired, and we have received the orders of the great officers of government, urging us to carry their commands into effect; and saying, if we presumed to disobey we alone should be responsible, and they must punish our offence as it merited.

“ We have considered, that in this affair, having received the strict orders of the great officers of government, should we again procrastinate, it would be difficult for us to bear the blame; and we imagine that you, gentlemen, could not endure to sit and look on at our being involved in difficulties. We have, therefore, in implicit obedience to the orders of government, already hired labourers, who have dug up the earth which had been thrown in to fill up the east side of the space before the Company’s Factory, and have covered it over again with boards. It is right for us to inform you, and we write for the special purpose of doing so. With compliments, we are,

(signed) “ *Howqua, jun.*” &c. &c.

“ To Messrs. Baynes,” &c. &c.

(Eleven Names.)

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 12th October 1830.

WE have this day received through the Merchants the following Proclamations from the Viceroy, the Kwang-choo-foo, and the Nan-hey-yuen.

“ Governor Le, by Hoo the Kwang-choo-foo, concerning Foreign Ladies coming to Canton, dated 11th October 1830.

“ Hoo, the Kwang-choo-foo, hereby issues an Edict to command an inquiry, and require an answer.

“ On the 24th of the 8th moon of the 10th year of Taou Kwang, respectfully was received a letter from the Governor, on opening which the following statement appeared :

“ Foreign ships coming to Canton to trade, and having Foreign Women * on board, it is only allowed, that before the merchant ships enter the port, they should take the Foreign Women and send them to lodge at Macao; they are not permitted to enter the port. This is a prohibition extremely strict. It is impossible to allow it to be viewed with contempt and opposed.

* The term is not directly offensive, but not complimentary or civil, like lady or wife. The simple word wife (Tse) is not used, but Foo, which applies to grown servant women, or any woman of advanced years, whether wife or not.

“ Now

" Now I, the Governor, on inquiry, having heard that at Canton there is a Foreign Merchant, who has from Macao brought his Foreign Woman (or wife) to Canton, who dwells with him in the Foreign Factory: this is manifestly done by the intentional connivance and protection of the Hong Merchants and Linguists. If it be not strictly inquired into, interdicted, and an expulsion take place, hereafter there will be a confused bustle and worse imitation, which will be a great and wicked innovation on the laws and regulations of the Celestial Empire.

" It is necessary to proceed to an extraordinary degree of correction in managing the affair.

" Therefore an Order is framed, addressed to the Foo Yuen, requiring him to assemble immediately with the Nan-hey-yuen, and taking the lead, to summon together the Hong Merchants and Linguists before their bar, to inquire distinctly who really the Foreign Merchant was who brought the woman? In what Factory at present the said Woman dwells? Why the Hong Merchants and Linguists protected, connived, and did not report? Whether the custom-house officers and patrol knew of the occurrence? Let one and all of these questions be inquired into and answers returned, that I may investigate the facts. At the same time is made the duty of all the Hong Merchants to command the said nation's Chief to take immediately the said Foreign Woman, and hasten instantly to drive her away back again to Macao. If again there be presumption enough to connive and delay, the said Hong Merchants and Linguists shall positively be all degraded from their rank, prosecuted, and severely punished. Not the least clemency will be shown. Hasten! hasten! &c.

" Receiving this, besides ordering the Nan-hae to inquire and act, I hereby issue an Order to the Hong Merchants to examine immediately." [Here follows an echo of the above.]

" Taou Kwang, 10th year, 8th moon, 25th day."

Hong Merchants' Letter accompanying Governor Le's Order about Foreign Ladies.

" A respectful Notification. On the 25th day of the 8th moon (11th October 1830), we received a document from the Kwang-choo-foo, communicating the Governor's Edict. We now copy it, and send it to you to look at. We pray you, gentlemen, to examine and act accordingly. We also pray you early to send back the Foreign Woman to Macao, and thus enable us to state back to government. If she does not go down to Macao, we must incur the Governor's anger and reproof. At this time (the time when the Governor is angry) ask, gentlemen, your hearts if they also would not feel uneasy.

" For this purpose we write, and are, with compliments,

" Yours, &c. &c."

(Signed by *Howqua*, jun. and Eleven other Merchants.)

(The Cipher or Signature is not added by the Twelfth Merchant.)

" The Governor Le, by Hoo, the Kwang-choo-foo, to the Hong Merchants, prohibiting Foreigners going about in Sedan Chairs, dated 11th October 1830.

" Hoo, the Kwang-choo-foo, issues an Order for the purpose of commanding an inquiry and demanding an answer.

" In the 10th year of Taou Kwang, the 8th moon and the 24th day (10th October), I received from the Governor an official letter, on opening which it was as follows: 'It appears that the Foreigners of the various nations coming to Canton to trade have hitherto not been permitted on the territory of the capital of the province of the Celestial Empire to go about seated in sedan chairs. Now it is substantiated that the attendants of the principal office of police have stated verbally to me, on the 21st of the present moon (7th instant), that they had seen a Company's foreign writer, Aska (Astell), who has come to Canton from Macao, publicly entering his Factory seated in a chair. This really is opposing the dignity of the regulations.

" ' The Hong Merchants and Linguists dwell very near to the said Foreigners: how then is it that they have not in the least been aware of this, examined into it, and put a stop to it? This is a complete disregard of the laws.

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12 October 1830.

“ ‘ Uniting these circumstances, I immediately write an official letter, giving orders, and send the letter to the Kwang-choo-foo, that he may immediately take under his direction the Nan-hey-yuen, summon the Hong Merchants and Linguists before his bar, and examine clearly why the said Foreigner, who has come from Macao to Canton, enters the Factory seated in a chair? Whether the said Hong Merchants knew of the circumstance, and purposely connived at it or not? Or whether there are among the Hong Merchants some worthless vagabonds, who have brooked to flatter, thereby leading to the Foreigners presuming to perform this act of non-conformity to old usage? Besides this, whether or not there have heretofore been any Foreigners going out and seated in chairs? One by one examine and investigate these things clearly and truly, and according to the facts report back again, that I may investigate to the bottom.

“ ‘ Furthermore, with severity and earnestness make responsible and command the said Hong Merchants and Linguists to enjoin the order on the said nation's Chief, that hereafter the said Foreigners going from their Factories to their boats, and from their boats to their Factories, must all, as of old, walk on foot; they must not overstep their proper station or rank, and go about in chairs. If they presume purposely to oppose, immediately shall the said Hong Merchants and Linguists be degraded and examined, without any clemency being extended to them. Hasten! hasten!

“ On the receipt of this, besides causing the Nan-hey-yuen to examine and report back to me, I also, uniting the above circumstances, issue an Order to examine into the subject. When the Order reaches the said Merchants, let them immediately examine clearly why the said Foreigner, who has come from Macao to Canton, enters the Factory seated in a chair? Whether the said Merchants knew of the circumstance, and purposely connived at it or not? Or whether there are some worthless vagabonds who have brooked to flatter, thereby leading to the Foreigners presuming to this act of non-conformity to old usage? Besides this, whether or not there have heretofore been any other Foreigners going out and in seated in chairs? Examine into these things clearly one by one; then, taking with you the Linguists, first go to the Nan-hey-yuen with a prepared statement, and wait till he has managed the business to the utmost; also present a prepared statement to me, that I may investigate to the bottom. Furthermore, with severity and earnestness enjoin the Order on the said nation's Chief, that hereafter the said Foreigners, in going from their Factories to their boats, and from their boats to their Factories, must, as of old, walk on foot; they must not overstep their proper station or rank, and go about in chairs. If they presume purposely to oppose, immediately shall the said Hong Merchants and Linguists be degraded and examined, without any clemency being extended to them. Hasten! hasten! These are the orders.

“ Taou Kwang, 10th year, 8th month, 25th day,” (11th October 1830.)

We refrain at the present moment from any comment on the spirit and tenor of these documents, and merely remark, that in consequence of the Edict respecting Foreigners sitting in sedan chairs, which appears to be published with no other object than that of wantonly irritating their minds, we came to the resolution of manifesting, in some degree, to the Chinese public, that the insult had not passed unnoticed; we consequently directed the following placard, written in Chinese characters, to be forthwith hung up at the gate of each of our Factories, and gave strict orders to see it carried into effect.

“ To all whom it may concern.

“ In consequence of a certain occurrence, the Select Committee who direct the affairs of an English Company have in council resolved, That hereafter every class of persons sitting in sedan chairs shall be disallowed to enter the gate of the Company's Factory. The porter is ordered to intercept all chairs, and prevent their entering. If any person refuses to listen to him, both the chair and the individual will assuredly be expelled by force. Every one will do well not to try the experiment with his person.

“ Taou Kwang, 10th year, 8th moon, 27th day.”

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated 16th October 1830.

WE have this day received through the Merchants a Chop from the Hoppo, which is a counterpart of the Viceroy's received on the 12th, with the exception of the following concluding remarks made by the Hoppo.

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16 October 1830.

Hoppo Chung's remarks in communicating the Governor's orders, received
16th October 1830.

" This coming before me, the Hoppo, I, on the receipt of it, examined, and find that for Foreign Merchants to bring with them married or unmarried Women to Canton to dwell has already, in the 16th year of Keen Lung (1751), been interdicted by the then Governor Chin, in his official reply, which is on record.

" Afterwards, because that for foreign ships sailing back it is difficult to approach Macao to receive families (on board), it was requested to go by the inside river to Whampoa to embark, and again that was rejected and disallowed by the then Governor Le. Since for Foreign Women to be brought even to Whampoa is contrary to the laws, how can there be such a principle as that of presuming to lodge themselves (at Canton), the capital city of a (province)?

" Dated 13th October 1830, 10th year, 8th moon, 27th day."

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, 19th October 1830.

A PARTY of about 80, consisting of commanders, officers, and gentlemen of the Factory, this day proceeded to the city gates, in charge of the following address, of which four copies were made, directed to the Viceroy, Hoppo, Foo Yuen, and Iseang Keun, a Tartar general. A party equally numerous, composed of British merchants, and commanders and officers of country ships, had preceded them by about a quarter of an hour with petitions to the Viceroy and Hoppo on the same subject.

Upon waiting about half an hour at the city gates, the Kwan Keep appeared and received the several letters, which he promised should be forthwith delivered, according to their respective addresses. The two parties then joined together and returned to the Factory.

Translation of a Chinese Draft of a Memorial to the Governor.

" The President and Select Committee, Messrs. Baynes, &c., to his Excellency the Governor, &c., for the purpose of clearing up certain affairs which concern them.

" A respectful Address.—The English who come to Canton for commercial purposes, invariably look up with respect and reverence to the sovereign* of the great I Sing Dynasty. But among the hundreds of officers of government appointed, it is unavoidable that there should be an inequality, some good and some bad. Some who, by a thorough understanding of the human feelings, by extending what they themselves like to others, and by a benevolent government, win people's hearts†. On the other hand, there are some who, being undiscerning, by an irregular use of authority and power, and who from selfish motives rule in a tyrannical and vexatious manner, lose people's hearts.

" Is it not one high Heaven that has torn all the nations of mankind? Are they not reciprocally of the same species? It was the same Heaven that gave existence to Manchows and Chinese which gave existence to Englishmen, and with high Heaven there is not a partial heart. China is by Heaven conferred upon the East, and England, by the same Heaven, is conferred on the people of the West. All nations belong to high Heaven; they should not boast against each other‡.

" Since Canton is opened as a mart for foreign trade, it is incumbent to receive men from remote parts with civility; they should not be insulted and treated ignominiously.

* May he live ten thousand years, is implied in the name Wan-Luy-Yay, given him in the original.

† These are Chinese ideas and phrases; below also there is a good deal of the same.

‡ This paragraph is intended to undermine the exclusive pretensions of the Celestial Empire; and the Chinese edicts always pretend to treat with tender kindness.

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" But on the 4th of the 8th moon of the current year, there was an official Proclamation publicly exhibited, containing many unfounded and disgraceful assertions concerning Foreigners; as for example, 'It is directed that the Hong Merchants and Linguists shall continually teach the Foreigners, repress their pride and profligacy, and insist on their turning with all their hearts towards civilization,'* &c. Now, excepting two or three of the Hong Merchants, they are all without any learning or knowledge, and the custom-house interpreters are a still more ignorant set. The local Mandarins calling on them to erect themselves into masters, to instruct and teach civilization to Foreigners, is indeed very laughable. But as the said Proclamation† says they must insist on civilizing, &c., it may be seen that the great officers of government wish to cause the native people to look upon Foreigners as all belonging to barbarous nations. This is truly treating with tenderness strangers in the land!

" The said Edict further speaks of Foreigners using boys, boat prostitutes, and language deserving of the utmost indignation; for the English consider the crime alluded to deserving of death, and the public intensely hate such unnatural wickedness. How can the great officers of government, without any the least proof, publish groundless reports, which they have sought for to bring ignominy and disgrace on all Foreigners? How is this exemplifying the principle of treating tenderly strangers in the land?

" Another official Edict has also been issued, concerning Foreigners sitting in shoulder carriages, saying, 'that Foreigners going from their boats to their Factories, and from their Factories to their boats, must walk on foot, and not overstep their rank by ascending chairs,' &c.

" But the local officers continually issue edicts, saying that they view Natives and Foreigners with the same benevolence. Now, from the foreign Factories to the Merchants' Hongs is a distance of one, two or three le; if the weather be very hot, or if it rain, or if the individual be wearied and faint, to order the Foreigner to walk on foot, while the Native commonalty sit in chairs whenever they please, how is this viewing Natives and Foreigners with the same benevolence?

" But further, this Edict says, 'Foreigners must not overstep their rank,' &c. But we know not how the great Mandarins look upon the persons appointed by the English to transact the commerce, of what rank they are. It is therefore incumbent on us to tell that our supracargoes and writers are all the sons and younger brothers of country gentlemen, of civil and military officers, &c. A certain custom-house domestic gave verbal information against a person he called Yashu (Astell); that Astell is the son of one who has often been at the head of the Company's Court, and who has many years been a member of the Great Council of the British nation. How talk of his overstepping his rank by sitting in a chair.

" The native salt Merchants, Hong Merchants, custom-house waiters and interpreters, are all seen in chairs when they please. How can it be said that Foreigners must walk on foot? Is this viewing Natives and Foreigners with the same benevolence?

" There is also a very rude Edict using the expression 'Foreign Women.' Now, according to the laws of England, every man can marry but one wife. The custom of concubinage does not exist, therefore the persons the Edict calls Foreign Women are the wives of Foreign Merchants. The Company's servants in management of commercial affairs, are required to be in Canton six or more months every year; now, how does it accord with reason and the feelings of human nature to declare that the wife shall not accompany her husband, and quietly reside in the Factory with him? Is this doing to others as we would be done* to? The native officers are allowed to have their families in the public offices. Why should the Foreign Merchant not be allowed to have temporarily his family in his Factory?

" To sum up the whole, if the great officers wish to rule Foreigners with justice and benevolence, affairs may go on with tranquillity; but if they wish to insult, tyrannize over and govern Foreign Merchants vexatiously, we really do not know where the business will end. The most patient natures may be driven to extremes. What necessity, in the midst of a vacuum and on level ground, to create a commotion and provoke a revolution.

" We write on special purpose; and with great respect lay this before your Excellency, &c.

" Taou Kwang, 10th year, 9th moon."

* Or conversion, renovation.

† The proclamation was issued by the Governor and Hoppo jointly.

‡ Chinese phrase.

The preceding address is the composition of Dr. Morrison, and the Honourable Court cannot fail to perceive that it is written with a most anxious desire to conciliate the Chinese authorities, at the same time under a full sense of the indignities which have lately been offered to us. It is in fact an appeal to the good feelings of the high authorities to whom it is addressed ; and we sincerely hope that it may produce the desired result.

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EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, 20th October 1830.

Howqua then proceeded to communicate the Viceroy's orders respecting the lady now in Canton, in the following terms :

" As to women coming to Canton, the old law forbids it. It never can be permitted. The Chief is desired to send away the Lady forthwith. If she cannot move immediately, the merchants are to ascertain in how many days she will go. If the Chief says he will not remove the Foreign Lady in two or three days, if she still be here, soldiers will be sent to the Factory to seize and drive her out. The chief is to tell the Merchants what day she goes."

Howqua next produced two sealed letters, addressed by us to the Foo Yuen and Iseang Keun, which had yesterday been presented at the city gates.

The one to the Foo Yuen was given back to the Kwang-choo-foo, to be returned to the Merchants, and by them delivered to the Committee. Howqua explained that the Foo Yuen stated he could not receive any document concerning foreign affairs, unless through the Viceroy. These affairs are in the Viceroy's department. His Excellency will receive the chop, and answer it. The Foo Yuen further sent the following message through Howqua :

" For more than 100 years the British have traded quietly to the port of Canton. The Emperor has always taken care of the English. The Viceroy also has always been desirous to be friendly towards the English. Whatever the Viceroy ordains regarding Foreigners is of equal force with the Emperor's law. The Viceroy cannot disregard the fixed laws. If you Foreigners disobey the Viceroy's orders, you disobey the Emperor's laws. If you come here, you must respect the laws."

The Iseang Keun returned the letter with a short message, merely stating that it was not his affair.

Howqua having further stated that the anchorage is ordered by the Viceroy to order Merchants to bring the Committee's answer respecting the three Parsees and the lady to-day, the Merchants were requested to retire into another room, while the Committee deliberated on what reply to be returned to their message.

Passing over the first part of Howqua's communication from the Viceroy respecting the three Parsees, with the mere remark, that it is singular that a demand so apparently reasonable should not have been made until it was well known that it could not possibly be complied with, the men having left the country, we proceed to take into our serious consideration the latter part, which is of a much more important nature, namely, where the Viceroy arrogates to himself the power to send armed soldiers into our Factory, and there seize on the person of a British subject.

The admission of such a power would render us liable, at every hour and on every occasion, to the intrusion of an armed force. It would not only violate the security of the valuable property entrusted to our charge, and subject our persons to insult, but it would be a virtual abandonment of the only protecting privilege we possess in China, and one which has ever been considered of the most vital importance. We therefore felt that any measure resembling concession on such a point would be highly injurious to the interests and honour of the British nation, of which we are in this country the representatives ; indeed, the mode which the Viceroy has adopted of communicating to us on a subject so important, by a verbal message, instead of writing, appears to indicate that he is himself conscious that he is overstepping his authority, and is desirous to try the effect of intimidation before he commits himself in a more formal manner. If this threat were obeyed, or indeed received in silence, in the course of a few days, on any other occasion, we might expect to see it put into execution ; while, on the other hand, if spirited and decisive measures are adopted to resist the mode in which it was conveyed, gives the Viceroy an opportunity of retracting.

We therefore came to the determination, with reference to the abstract question of personal security, to resist this menace of violating the precincts of our Factory, hitherto held sacred, to the utmost extremity, and immediately proceeded to take the necessary measures for repelling the attempt, if made.

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EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, 21st October 1830.

Consultation in full Committee.

THE Merchants having requested an interview with the Committee, we assembled to meet them, when Howqua proceeded to state, that he and Mowqua had had an interview with the Viceroy, in which he entirely disclaimed any intention to act on his threat conveyed yesterday, and that he considered the circumstance of ladies residing in Canton as a thing by no means of sufficient importance to employ force to drive them away.

The merchants then endeavoured to persuade us, that it was merely an ebullition of angry feeling on the part of the Viceroy, and offered their own security, as a body, that no act of violence should ever be used to molest any person residing in our Factories.

We informed them, that in an affair of so much importance we did not consider any security they could offer as at all satisfactory, and that the guard would not be removed from our Factory until we received some document from the Viceroy which would warrant us to consider our persons and property secure from the intrusion of an armed force while within the precincts of our own Factory.

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, 23d October 1830.

WE have received through the Merchants the following Edicts from the Viceroy and Hoppo, in reply to our Remonstrance of the 19th instant.

Governor Le, in answer to the Committee's Remonstrance of the 18th instant; dated 21st October, received 23d, 1830.

The private agent's remonstrance is joined with the Committee's in reply.

“ Le, Member of the Military Board, Governor of Canton, &c. to the Hong Merchants, requiring them to inform themselves fully of the contents.

“ It is now authenticated that the English nation's Chief, Baynes, and others presented a statement, saying [Here follows a copy of the Letter of the 18th.]

“ Further, it is authenticated that the English private Merchants, Innes and others, presented a statement to the same effect. They both have come before me, the Governor. Concerning these authenticated topics, on examination it is found that Foreigners (E. jin) bringing with them Foreign Women (fanfoo) to Canton Province, they (the Women) were merely allowed to remain on board ship. Afterwards it was granted that they should land at Macao. This was an extraordinary manifestation of the graciousness of our sage and benevolent dynasty. It cannot by any means be allowed to bring them (Foreign Women) to Canton. All the various nations of Foreigners have for a long period obediently submitted to this.

“ As in the 16th year of Keen Lung (A. D. 1751-2), the Dutch Foreign Merchant, Laon-leen, in a boat, brought to Canton a Foreign Woman, and resided in the Suyfung Hong. At that time the foreign woman was in custody sent to Macao; and there was issued a severe interdict.

“ In the 34th year of Keen Lung (A. D. 1769), an English Foreign Merchant, Fee Shun, clandestinely brought a foreign slave woman to reside in E-Wo Factory; then the said foreign slave woman was sent in custody to Macao, and the Hong Merchants, Linguists, Compradores, and government messengers were severally chastised and degraded, as is on record. Afterwards, whenever Foreign Women were brought clandestinely to Canton, they were always sent back under custody to Macao. Of late, for ten or more years, the Foreign Merchants to have all obediently submitted, and there has been no such thing as bringing Foreign Women or Girls to Canton; by which it may be seen that the said Foreigners were by no means ignorant of the law.

“ Now the said Chief, Baynes, how can he intentionally oppose the prohibitions and orders, and bring with him a Foreign Woman to Canton City, to dwell with him in the Foreign Factory? And after having given orders to him, he still again stupidly introduces the case of those in courts taking with them their Mandarin families, &c.—a lying, specious argument. Does he not know that the native Mandarins must be resident in their courts before they are allowed to have their families with

with them? If they be deputed on public business, whether for a larger or shorter time, they are not allowed to take their families with them. The law is fixed and manifest. Now, the said nation's Chief has received the commands of his King to come to Canton provincial city to trade, which is not different from receiving an Imperial commission to go on a certain errand. Then, even if he does fallaciously compare his case with native Mandarins, he ought not (according to his own showing) to bring his family with him. Still, if her (or rather she) remove early to Macao, he will avoid a very, a very severe scrutiny. As to sitting in sedan chairs, originally it is a small business; but Foreigners being in the provincial city have not heretofore been allowed to ascend chairs. In going out and in from their Factories to their boats, or from their boats to their Factories, if it rained, or if they were sick, and found it impossible to walk, still it was only proper for them to lean on some support, and proceed. They were not allowed to drag in topics, and dun with petitions.

"Again, heretofore, in consequence of various foreign nations coming to Canton province to trade, whose languages were unintelligible, and they incapable of understanding the proprieties, laws, prohibitions and orders of the Celestial Empire, it was difficult (or impossible) for them to avoid pride and profligacy. Further, being apprehensive that the Security Merchants, &c. might be unjust in their dealings, or that traitorous natives might seduce to a violation of the laws, &c.; therefore, even since the reign of Keen Lung, every year when the foreign ships in succession came into the port, proclamations containing severe interdicts were published once, really with the intention of looking down and compassionating the Foreigners, to prevent their being entangled in the net of the law. This was the design; but the said Foreigners, in their petition, turn it into a disgraceful insult to them, which really shows their ignorance of the substantialities of the business.

"To sum up all: the interdicts and orders are of old standing, and have not by any means been commenced to-day. The said Foreigners have only, as they ought, to conform obediently to the old regulations; then, no doubt, there will be mutual tranquillity, without disturbance. If, in respect to former interdicts, there be an intentional opposition and disturbance created, it is all brought upon themselves by the said Foreigners. It is by no means the case that the Celestial Empire has not bestowed a gracious compassion. Try and ask. Have these said Foreigners passed over an immense ocean, several times ten thousand le (miles), for the purposes of commerce, or to create disturbance? With an impartial mind silently consider, and you will be vehemently aroused (or awakened) to a sense of your condition.

"Uniting the above circumstances, an order is hereby issued to the Hong Merchants to enjoin forthwith perspicuously these orders on the said Foreigners for their obedience, that they may take the Foreign Woman now living in the Factory, and immediately order her to be returned to Macao.

"Moreover, order that hereafter, whether moving or at rest, there must be in all cases an implicit obedience to the laws and regulations of the Celestial Empire. The Foreign Women coming in ships are only allowed to reside temporarily at Macao; it is not allowed that they should be brought to Canton. Further, it cannot be that in the provincial city (Foreigners) may ascend and sit in Chinese shoulder carriages. If there be presumptuous, intentional disobedience, all the offenders will be involved in a severe scrutiny. Hasten! Hasten! These are the orders.

"Taou Kwang, 10th year, 9th month, 5th day."

Hoppo Chung, in reply to the Committee's Remonstrance of the 18th instant, and the Remonstrance of private British Merchants of the same date.
Issued October 22d, received 23d, 1830.

"Chung, Imperial Commissioner of Duties at the Port of Canton, &c. &c., to the Hong Merchants, requiring them to make themselves fully acquainted with the Contents thereof.

"It is authenticated that the English nation's Chief, Baynes, and others have presented a foreign petition, written in the Chinese character, saying [Here follows a copy of the Document of the 18th.]

"And it is authenticated that the said nation's private Merchants, Innes and others, presented a foreign petition, with a Chinese translation, saying [Here follows a copy.]

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" In consequence of these examinations being made, it is found that the taking off the interdict against ingress from the southern sea, and permitting Foreigners to a commercial intercourse, occurred at the commencement of the dynasty, from which time to the present is a hundred and some scores of years, during which period, for the Foreigners of the various nations who come to reside at Canton, there has been no affair which has not had old regulations, and there has been no man who did not obey the fixed laws; for the language and dress of natives and foreigners are entirely different, and the Celestial Empire's usages are all honourable and strict. How is it possible to suffer the want of a marked difference being made between those inside and those outside?

" Since the said Foreigners come to trade, it is only incumbent on them to obey implicitly the orders of government. If they dislike the restrictions as difficult to be endured, it is perfectly competent to them not to take the trouble to come so great a distance.

" All the great officers of government in Canton look up and realize (his Majesty's) desire to treat Foreigners tenderly, and they continually stoop to manifest kindness to those who come; but in matters which regard prohibitions, how can they in the least indulge in remissness?

" Now, according to what the said Chief, Baynes, and others have stated, they say, that on the 4th of the 8th moon a Proclamation was put up, containing language intended to degrade and insult the said Foreigners.

" Heretofore it has been the rule concerning foreign ships entering the port, for my office to examine the old records, and, uniting with the Governor, issue proclamations to be pasted up against the foreign Factories. From the 57th year (A.D. 1792) of Keen Lung till now, it has been in successive years conformed to. The practice was by no means commenced this year. Heretofore the said nation's trading Foreign Merchants never heard that it was designed to treat with insult and disgrace them. The said Chief has resided in Canton many years, and has been constantly going out and into the foreign Factories. How did he remain ignorant of the proclamations which were put up according to usage, and in past years never observe the disgrace and insult, but only this year open out his irregular, crazy proceeding? There must be some native Chinese traitor in the concern, deceiving and fanning the flame.

" The language of the said Chief and others is fallacious; and let you alone you exclude yourselves from the life which nature gives; as, for example, what is said in the petition about overstepping station or rank, and ascending sedan chairs.

" The said Foreign Merchants have resided in Canton city for many years past. In past days, when going from the Factories to the boats, and from the boats to the Factories, did they ascend chairs, or did they walk on foot? Were there no times of hot weather or of rain then? Did it never happen that men's bodies were wearied then? If formerly the said Foreigners had ascended chairs, and at this time they were interdicted and stopped, then perhaps there would be a semblance of a little tyranny. But if originally they walked on foot, and now suddenly ascend shoulder carriages*, is it not overstepping their station?

" The important ground of the provincial city is exposed to the view of every eye, and inside native people may not be menially employed by outside Foreigners (or Barbarians). The said Chief and others say that the person Astell, who sat in a chair, is the son of a member of their National Legislature. When that foreign merchant lives in his own country, he is no doubt the son of an honourable officer, but when he comes with merchant ships to Canton, and is not proceeding to court with tribute, here, no doubt, he must merely be viewed as a trading foreign merchant. Since the said chief and others understand what is reasonable and just, how is it they will not apply their thoughts, and awaken to a sense of propriety?†

" As to what the petition says about Foreign Women residing in the Factory. Heretofore when Foreign Women came to Canton Province, they were originally

* This seems to refer to the low sedan chair called the Peking chair.

† In the Governor's reply, the interdict was against ascending the shoulder carriage, or sitting in a sedan chair; but if sick, and not able to walk, the Foreigner might lean with his hands or arms upon the *yu*. What "*yu*" means in this connection it is difficult to say; it denotes "a mortar," held up by the hands, and may probably be the name of some mean bamboo hurdle. But he is not to ascend or sit, but hold on by this hurdle; which statement it is difficult to make sense of.

allowed to reside temporarily at Macao. If they were brought to Canton City, it was for a long time past an offence against the statutes of the local government. In the 16th and 34th years of Keen Lung (A.D. 1751 & 1769), there were cases in the courts of foreign women and slave (or servant) women being brought up clandestinely to Canton, all of whom were by the then Governor sent back in custody to Macao. There are papers which may be examined.

“ The said Chief and others, in attending to the commercial affairs, have their fixed residence at Macao ; Canton is only their temporary residence. Every day (or ordinarily), by requesting a permit, they can go up and down, and perfectly attend to their families. What necessity is there for persons with different dress and different language (from the natives) to excite a commotion in the Factories, and, by a possibility of one in 10,000, create a bloody quarrel and make a disturbance, which would turn the subject into matter of infinite after regret ? Let the said Chief and others consider intensely their own persons and families, for the safety of whom it is very incumbent on them to take precautions (and not bring them into places of danger). To sum up the whole : the said Chief and others having passed over the ocean so great a distance to come and trade, our sacred dynasty, which benevolently nurtures 10,000 states, doubtless will not in the least degree view them in different ways. But the Hwa and the Ee, the flowery Natives and the barbarian Foreigners, must be distinctly divided ; between those inside and those outside there must be erected a great boundary *. Heretofore there has been no precedent for entering the Factories in shoulder carriages, therefore walking on foot is no harsh treatment. Heretofore it has not been the rule for Foreign Women to reside in Canton, therefore sending them to Macao is really the way to give entire security.

“ The said Chief and others must, as is proper, consider the subject deeply over and over again, and be careful not to let other people befool them, vainly spending their angry breath in restive conduct, which may turn to self cutting off the road of commerce.

“ Uniting these things, an order is hereby issued to the Hong Merchants to enjoin these commands on the said Chief and others, for their obedience thereto.

“ Oppose not.

A special Edict.”

“ Taou Kwang, 10th year, 9th month, 6th day.” (A.D. 22d October 1830.)

A Proclamation, containing ideas much the same as the above, is pasted up at the Hong Merchants' Hall. It is issued in the united names of the Governor and Hoppo and Iseung Keun. Date, 23d October.

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, 25th October 1830.

WE have received from the Merchants the following Edict from the Iseung Keun, in reply to the Remonstrance addressed to him on the 19th instant.

“ King, the Iseung Keun, in reply to the Remonstrances of the Committee and of the private British Merchants of the 18th instant ; dated 23d October, received 25th October 1830.

“ King, the Iseung Keun (or Commandant) of Canton hereby replies officially to the two petitions of the English Foreign Merchants, Baynes, Jardine and others.

“ On examination, I find that all Foreign Merchants coming to Canton to trade ought to obey the usages and regulations of the Celestial Empire. This has long been a fixed rule ; and all Foreign Merchants with reverence and obedience have also hitherto long yielded respectful submission. The great officers appointed on the borders have likewise from time to time explained clearly the prohibitions and commands, and issued proclamations and perspicuous edicts ; and, fearing that the various Foreign Merchants were not yet able to understand fully, they have also commanded the Hong Merchants clearly and minutely to enjoin their edicts, and to apply themselves to cause that all the Foreigners should know the laws of the Celestial Empire ; and that traitorous natives also should not dare, in the midst of these circumstances, to excite disturbances. This was to quiet the feelings of

* A bank or dike, to fend off.

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Foreigners. These proclamations are really to show tenderness to Foreigners, and to soothe and tranquillize them. But the said Foreigners, ignorant how to be excited to gratitude, turned round, and because of the proclamations disallowing them to bring Foreign Women with them to Canton provincial city, and disallowing them to sit in sedan chairs, whining, whining, present petitions. I, the Iseung Keun, have no connection whatever with the management of foreign affairs; but as it is authenticated that a petition has been presented to me on these various topics, I have examined, and find that hitherto Foreign Women were only allowed to be in the Macao ships, and to reside temporarily at Macao*; they have never yet been permitted to be brought up by others to Canton provincial city.

“As to the various Foreign Merchants trading, after ascending the shore from their ships, it is incumbent on them to keep themselves quiet, and wait in their Factories, staying till their merchandize is disposed of, and they have purchased and set in order new merchandize. Then it is incumbent on them immediately to get into their ships, return to Macao, and thence return to their country. Hitherto it has not been permitted to sit in sedan chairs. The fixed regulations being thus, how can (it be allowed) to dun with disputatious petitions?

“Besides, the words contained in the petition are very wild and fallacious; but in consideration that they are Foreigners, and that their language and notions of justice are different (from those of natives), I do not inflict severe chastisement. Since it is authenticated that they have also petitioned the Governor, the Foo Yuen, and the Hoppo, they ought to wait till they have replied by proclamation for their commands to be obeyed.

“Taou Kwang, 10th year, 9th moon, 7th day.” (23d October 1830.)

Several days having now elapsed since the threat of the Viceroy to send an armed force into our Factories was intimated to us, and although the Merchants have solemnly assured us that no such threat would ever be put into execution, yet no written document has been produced to satisfy our minds on so important a subject; we therefore determine to address the following letter to the Viceroy:

“To his Excellency the Viceroy of Canton.

“On the 20th of this month the Hong Merchants came to us in a body, and stated that they had a message to deliver from your Excellency, which they were ordered to make known to us in the most formal manner, requesting that the words as they fell from their mouths might, in their presence, be committed to writing: this was done, and they have in consequence been placed upon our records. We were struck with the greatest surprise on their stating that your Excellency had commanded them to inform us, that in two or three days an armed military force would be sent into our Factories to seize the person of a British subject. We had for a long succession of years felt satisfied, that while in our Factories, peaceably conducting our commercial transactions, our persons were secure; indeed, we have been confirmed in this feeling by the conduct of all former Viceroys. It is only under assurances of perfect security that trade can be possibly be carried on. Our lives and persons threatened in so formal and sudden a manner, what remained for us but instantly to endeavour to protect ourselves? Self-preservation is the first principle. The feelings of distrust and alarm that this message of your Excellency has created in our minds, and in that of all the foreign community, can only be allayed by a strong assurance from your Excellency, that the persons of all British subjects in our Factories are secure, and these buildings inviolate from the intrusion of an armed force.

(signed)

“By the President.”

“Canton, 25th October 1830.”

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated 28th October 1830.

THIS afternoon the Senior Merchants waited on the President, and delivered to him the following Edict from the Viceroy; at the same time renewing, in the strongest terms, their assurances that no molestation would be ever offered to any persons resident in our Factories.

* There is a confusion in the original, arising probably from the people employed in the Iseung Keun's office being but ill acquainted with the affairs of Foreigners.

Reply

Reply of Governor Le to Committee's Note of 25th October; dated 27th, received evening of 28th, 1830.

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" Le, Member of the Military Board, Governor of Canton, &c. to the Hong Merchants.

" It is authenticated that the English nation's Chief, Baynes, and others have presented a statement, saying [Here follows a copy of the Committee's Note of the 25th instant.]

" This being authenticated, coming before me, the Governor, I have examined, and find that in consequence of an Indian foreign merchant, in a foreign Factory, beating to death a Dutch captain, and it being right, according to law, that the affair should revert to the local officers to examine into it, report to their superiors, and manage, the said Chief and others delayed to deliver up the murderers. Further, there was an opposition to regulations, in bringing up a foreign woman and girl to reside in the Canton Factories.

" The said Chief and others sent statements with a coloured explanation; therefore I ordered the Hong Merchants to command solemnly the said Chief and others to obey implicitly and adhere to old regulations; that they must not intentionally disobey and bring upon themselves the guilt of perverseness.

" The language used about sending troops to drive out and expel* was under an apprehension that the said Foreign Merchants would be pertinaciously stupid and not awaken, and from first to last would oppose, so as eventually to make it necessary to act thus; therefore was pointed out clearly the ultimate calamity, to cause them to know that which would arouse and awaken them. If, indeed, they themselves become penitent and reform (or alter their conduct), what necessity is there for them to be afraid of the majesty of the military?

" The Celestial Empire benevolently nourishes, righteously rectifies, and gloriously magnifies a vast forbearance. How is it possible that for dribblets of men, in a petty, petty barbarian† Factory, troops should be moved to exterminate!!! But the said Chief and others could not explain this intention (in the Hong Merchants' threat); they stupidly listened to the teaching of traitorous persons, and forthwith presumed, in opposition to inhibitions, to order guns and arms to be brought up, and arrange them at the door of their Factory. This is still more wild and erroneous. Only try to think, if indeed the said Foreigners had among them an illegality of a very important nature, I, the Governor, would instantly fly to report to the Emperor, and the government troops would gather together like clouds, exterminate them, and leave a perfect vacuum. How could their guns and arms they have brought presume to oppose such a force?

" As to what the statement sent says, that they have prepared to defend themselves, is also very foolish. Again they say, that heretofore for a long time they have had confidence in the management of business, &c. If for a long time they have had confidence, then they ought not in what has long been disallowed to disobey and act irregularly.

" This year the said nation's foreigner, Wei Lin Luce Chay, and others, were shipwrecked on the coast of Fokein. I reported to the Emperor concerning them, gave them food to eat, and delivered them over to the said Chief to send them home. How can it be supposed that foreign Merchants at Canton, tranquilly trading, will not be protected?

" I, the Governor, in transacting public affairs, have never once failed to keep faith with the people. After this explicit order, it is necessary, immediately and hastily, to take the guns and arms and send them back to the foreign ships; the woman and girl brought must be instantly sent to Macao; then what is gone by may be passed over without a deep injury.

" Do not uselessly be in doubt and fear, and still go on with pride and fright, like a vicious horse. Moreover, it is incumbent on you to lead and induce all the

* Pae Ping, Keu Chuh. The Keu Chuh is a very harsh phrase, used in the first document; it means, driving cattle out of a field, and pigs out of a yard. The next word used in reference to the Foreign Woman was "Yu," to send under custody of the police. The word used below is "Foo," which denotes going in a respectful manner.

† It is impossible by the word Foreign (Le) to give the spirit of this sentence.

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Foreigners hereafter for ever to obey the laws and regulations, that none may presume to disobey. If you remain still perversely obstinate and unwilling, assuredly a report will be presented to the Emperor, and an order received to cut off the commerce. It will also be impossible for me, the Governor, to stoop to protect. Let the said Chief be careful that he does not, by his individual mad opposition, involve all Foreigners; the crime will really have one to revert to.

“Uniting these things, I order the Hong Merchants to enjoin immediately my orders on the said Chief, to obey and hasten to take the guns and arms at the Company’s Factory, and the same day remove them to Whampoa, and to make haste and send back to Macao the woman and girl that he brought; to abide in his station, tranquilly trading, and by no means stupidly listen to deceiving reports, irregularly exciting terror and fear, with wilful opposition to prohibitions and orders; for so doing he will hereafter repent without effect. Hasten! hasten! These are the orders.

“Taou Kwang, 10th year, 9th moon, 11th day.” (27th October 1830.)

The following Addresses to the Viceroy and Hoppo, having been approved of by the Board, will be forwarded to their respective Addresses as soon as they are translated.

“To the Viceroy of Canton.

“We have received from the Hong Merchants your Excellency’s letter on the subject of Foreign Women coming to Canton, and on Foreigners not being permitted to ride in sedan chairs. In regard to the former, we are told that it is contrary to the laws of the Celestial Empire for foreigners to have their wives residing with them. But the public records of foreigners at Canton show that their wives did formerly reside with them. The custom has fallen into disuse for many years, from foreigners not wishing to bring them to this city. In all civilized nations, it is ordained that men should live with their families, and it is invariably found that those who do are most peaceable and least inclined to create disturbances. But if such be the law of the Celestial Empire, how comes it that several foreign women did reside in Canton for many months last season, when the ships were here? No prohibition then existed, or it would have been promulgated; the thing was publicly known; no concealment was attempted; and no disturbance or confusion ensued. To suppose that such a thing could happen unknown to the police or to your Excellency is what we never can believe. Was the law then suspended (if such a law does exist) only to be now put in force to irritate and insult with more effect? For what can irritate more, or make men more reckless of what acts they commit, than to endeavour to tear from them their wives and families? With respect to foreigners not being allowed to ride in sedan chairs in a provincial city, the laws and customs are much at variance; for we ourselves have at different times for the last 20 years ridden in sedan chairs when going to merchants’ houses; and our predecessors have done the same, time immemorial, even to the palace of the Viceroy. If a man be sick and cannot walk, and yet be obliged to attend a merchant’s warehouse, how is he to get there if boats cannot be used, unless in a chair? Your Excellency cannot surely mean that he is to be hoisted on a man’s shoulders, or conveyed in a basket such as pigs are carried in. We know nothing else he could have recourse to, and we know well what a disturbance such a sight as this would cause, and we dread the consequences that might ensue. Your Excellency is said to see into the heart of his Imperial Majesty; but we will not be persuaded that a prohibition so devoid of all compassion or benevolence, so unworthy of the character of a civilized nation, can emanate from so wise a sovereign. Are we permitted to come here to trade, to disperse our money, and yet not be permitted to shelter ourselves from the heat of the sun or the inclemency of the weather? As well might we be told that the laws of China in a provincial city forbid us to wear a hat or use an umbrella. Let Foreigners be treated, not like dogs, but human beings, and they will be grateful, and nothing need be feared from traitorous natives; but drive them to extremities by unnecessary insults and ridiculous prohibitions, and they will rebel. A thing trifling in itself becomes of importance, if used as a mean to insult and inflame.

“We beg from the wisdom of your Excellency that these absurd and highly irritating orders may be cancelled and pass into oblivion.”

“To

“ To his Excellency the Hoppo.

“ We have received from your Excellency an Edict embracing several topics, to which we now reply. In regard to the insulting and highly irritating proclamations pasted up against our Factory walls, as well as to the absurd prohibition now for the first time attempted to be enforced against foreigners riding in chairs, your Excellency remarks, ‘ How is it that the said Chief, Baynes, and others have only now found out these insults, and have only now discovered that the weather is hot, and their bodies wearied?’ We have to observe to your Excellency, that we have long patiently borne many grievances and prohibitions imposed upon us by the local government, which we are satisfied never emanated from the heart of his Imperial Majesty. But forbearance is not appreciated, and has its limits. We hear a great deal in the edicts of your Excellency, and the other authorities of Canton, about the compassion, the tenderness, and the benevolence shown to foreigners in this country; but where is the foreigner who can say that these virtues, so much vaunted by the local authorities in their public proclamations, have ever been extended to him in Canton; they are found on a paper in official documents, but nowhere else. In regard to riding in chairs, we have ourselves ridden in chairs at Canton for the last 20 years, and our predecessors have done the same for time immemorial, even to the palace of the Viceroy.

“ The sovereigns of England and China are on terms of amity, and consequently commerce takes place between the two kingdoms; a commerce equally advantageous to both; certainly not more so to England than to China. Are we permitted then to come here to trade, to disperse our money, and not permitted to shelter ourselves from the heat of the sun or the inclemencies of the weather, in our necessary excursions from our Factories to the merchant’s warehouses. The prohibition, now for the first time attempted, is ridiculous, and never will we believe it to emanate from the Emperor of China, who when these things are represented to him formally, as perhaps they may be, will not, we are confident, sanction unnecessary insults and prohibitions attempted to be imposed on Foreigners by the local government, for no other purpose, that we can perceive, but to drive things to extremities.

“ Your Excellency says, there must be traitorous natives concerned with us, who fan the flame; but we must tell your Excellency we want not the aid of traitorous natives to make us know what is due to ourselves when attempted to be trampled upon.

“ Let Foreigners be treated, not like dogs, but human beings, and they will be grateful, and no fear need be entertained of traitorous natives; but drive them to extremities by unnecessary insults and absurd prohibitions, and they will rebel.

“ In regard to foreign women coming to Canton, the public records of foreigners show that foreign women did formerly reside with their husbands in Canton; the custom has fallen into disuse from foreigners not bringing their wives with them. The law of nature ordains that a man should live with his wife and children, and the attempt to make a law subversive of this is impossible. A man with his family is more disposed to be peaceable than others without these ties; and it is the custom for our wives to remain at home, and employ themselves with their children, and not to make disturbances. But if such a law does exist, forbidding foreign women to come to Canton, how is it that last season, when the ships were here, several foreign women resided in Canton? No notice was taken of it; no concealment was attempted; it was publicly known. Are we to suppose that the police authorities were ignorant of this fact? The thing is impossible. Does a law then exist which can be suspended or put in force as may suit the purposes of the local government? We know and have seen enough to be convinced that many things are done at Canton by the local authorities, which if known to his Imperial Majesty would draw down his vengeance upon them for risking the harmony which at present subsists between two great kingdoms, by driving foreigners to extremities by oppression, when a contrary treatment would make them peaceable and contented.”

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated 29th October 1830.

“ To his Excellency the Viceroy of Canton.

“ We have received a letter from your Excellency, intended to convey the assurances of our personal security within our Factories, and that they shall be free from all intrusions

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intrusions on the part of the government. We trust that your Excellency's future conduct will prove the sincerity of your assurances of protection, and will prevent the necessity of resorting to measures to protect ourselves."

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated the 1st November 1830.

WE have this day received the following Edict from the Viceroy, in reply to our short Address recorded on the 29th :

" Le, Member of the Military Board, Governor of Canton, &c. to the Hong Merchants.

" It is authenticated that the English Chief, Baynes, and others have presented a statement, saying, [Here follows a copy of the Note of October the 29th.]

" This coming before me, the Governor, I decide according to it, that since the said Chief and others have become penitent, and are awakened to solicit protection, I, the Governor, assuredly will not admit the principle of moving the military to surround and expel them.

" According to the contents of the petition, I write these circumstances, and forthwith order the Hong Merchants immediately to enjoin these commands on the said Chief and others, for their obedience thereto. Hereafter they must implicitly obey the laws and regulations of the Celestial Empire.

" They must not in the least disobey, but set an example, and induce all Foreigners, every one of them, to keep in their proper stations ; and then they will not lose the road of commerce for remote men (*i. e.* not cause the whole foreign trade to be interdicted.)

" Moreover, let these orders be enjoined on the Foreigners of all nations, that they may as a body yield obedience thereto. Oppose not. These are the commands."

" Taou Kwang, 10th year, 9th moon, 16th day."

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated 2d November 1830.

WE have this day received the following Edict from the Viceroy :

From Governor Le, ordering Four small Guns to be sent away from the Company's Factory ; dated 1st November 1830.

" Le, Member of the Military Board, and Governor of Canton and Kwang-se, hereby issues an Order to the Hong Merchants, with which they are required to make themselves fully acquainted.

" It appears that the English foreign Merchants had brought and laid up guns in the Company's foreign Factory. Yesterday it was authenticated that the Nan-hae-yuen and the said Merchants reported, that the said Foreigners on the 15th day of the present moon (October 31st) took two large brass guns and muskets, and other military weapons, and removed them back to Whampoa.

" But on examination, it was authenticated on a former day, by the report of the military station, that they altogether brought up two large guns, and four small brass guns. Now there have only been taken away two large guns ; there are still four small brass guns, concerning which no report of their having been removed has yet been authenticated. These are military weapons, and, without regard to whether they are great or small, they all ought not to be kept in the Factory.

" Since the said Chief himself says that he has confidence in Government, it is incumbent on him immediately to take the four small brass guns, and transport them altogether back to Whampoa.

" Uniting these circumstances, I forthwith issue this Order. When the Order reaches the said Merchants, let them immediately enjoin it on the said Chief and others, that, in obedience thereto, they may quickly take the four small brass guns, and on the same day remove them back to Whampoa on board the foreign ships ; and let them (the Merchants) again present a prepared report of the circumstance of removing them. It is not allowed to delay and gloss over. Hasten ! Hasten ! These are the orders.

" Taou Kwang, 10th year, 9th moon, 16th day."

The

The guns alluded to in the foregoing edict were three small brass guns belonging to the cutter, and were retained in Canton in order to be replaced on board her on her return to Macao. Feeling anxious, however, that there should be no apparent want of confidence or good faith on our part, we assured the Merchants that they should instantly be sent away, and that they should be informed of the circumstance as soon as they were gone.

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EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated 13th November 1830.

THE Hoppo Chung in Reply to the Committee's Letter, 28th October 1830;
received November 13th, dated the 9th.

“ Chung Hoppo, &c. to the Hong Merchants.

“ IT is authenticated that the English nation's Chief, Baynes, and others have presented a statement, as follows: [Here follows a copy.]

“ This coming before me, the Hoppo, I have examined, and find that the said Chief and others before presented a petition, in reply to which I explicitly commanded the Hong Merchants to order the said Chief and others to adhere implicitly to the old regulations, that they must not intentionally oppose prohibitions.

“ Now the said Chief and others have again sent in a whining, dunning, disputatious representation. The contents of the petition are not originally worth any further notice or persuasion; but indulgently considering that the said Foreign Merchants have come 10,000 miles to trade, and it involves their very means of existence, I would exercise the liberality of our holy and wise dynasty, which is as expansive as heaven itself, and, for the sake of the said Chief and others, stoop to point out their stupidity.

“ In their petition, they say that the insulting Proclamation suspended against the Company's Hong has been reluctantly borne with for many years by Foreign Merchants, &c. Know they not that the Celestial Empire benevolently cherishes and justly corrects? I was only apprehensive that the said barbarian Merchants would throw themselves into the net of the law, and therefore previously promulgated instructions, and stooped to show the way of preserving all entire. I by no means harboured the least intention of harsh treatment.

“ Besides, the Proclamation stuck up against the Company's Hong has been there annually for more than thirty years.

“ It did not commence to-day. As they say the language of the Proclamation was rather ignominious, why did not the former barbarian Merchants early indulge their anger, and with hearts dead to the subject, cease to come again to knock head at the service for an open market? Why did they cross an immense ocean, through numerous dangers, and every year come? It may be seen that the said nation's native spirit* depends solely on trade for the necessities requisite to support life. Woollens, camlets, clocks and watches are things which China does not find necessary; but tea and silk are articles which the said nation cannot possibly do without. It is by no means the case that the former Foreign Merchants forced themselves to bear patiently, but the fact is, they clung to the means of getting a livelihood (or supporting existence).

“ Now the said Chief and others disobey, and offend against the orders of government, and on every subject croakingly boast.

“ The Governor and I the Hoppo have already met, and according to the facts reported for the hearing of the great Emperor. Although he cherishes tender thoughts intensely, how can he extend indulgence to violations of the law? The state of things must provoke his holy anger to inflict severe chastisement, and possibly† to interdict the commerce, not allowing it to come from the south.

“ Although I wish to keep the things entire, I have no opportunity afforded to confer compassionate kindness. This is caused by the said Chief and others themselves cutting off the means of existence, and involving all the foreign (or barbarian) merchants throughout the whole of their country. The said Chief and others must, as is incumbent, over and over deeply meditate and become aroused and awakened to repent of the past and guard against the future. Do not scheme for selfish convenience, and obstinately adhere to your former talk. Thus with quiet mind, keeping in your station, you may enjoy the favour of benevolent rule. Let

* Native spirit, usage or habit

† One to 10,000.

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the said Chief and others look up and realize these thoughts. Uniting these things, an order is hereby issued to the Hong Merchants to act in obedience to the tenor of this, and to take the circumstances and principles contained in the above commands, and addressing themselves to the Chief, clearly and distinctly proclaim to him, it is absolutely necessary that backwards and forwards and round about the matter be explained, and be caused to report. Intensely ! Intensely !

“ A special Edict.”

“ Taou Kwang, 10th year, 9th moon, 24th day.” (9th November 1830.)

EXTRACT CHINA SECRET CONSULTATIONS, dated 30th November 1830.

THE following document has this day come into our possession, and although the mode in which it was obtained renders it impossible to place implicit confidence in its authenticity, still, as far as can be gathered from internal evidence, it leads us to believe it to be genuine. If so, it is a good specimen of the manner in which reports are made to the Imperial Court from distant provinces of the empire, and tends to show how plausible a statement may be drawn up on any subject where all regard for truth is thrown aside.

Memorial from Iseang Keun, Governor, Foo Yuen and Hoppo, to the Emperor, relative to foreign affairs, written early in November 1830, and copy received from a private hand. The copy received is not dated.

“ King, the Iseang Keun, Commandant of Canton and Kwong-se provinces ; Loo, Foo Yuen of Canton province ; and Chung, Hoppo of Canton, kneel and report to his Majesty for his information.

“ On examination it appears that all the Foreigners of various nations, who crossing the sea, come to Canton to exchange goods, reside during the spring and summer of every year at Macao. For the autumn and winter, the import and export goods being all at Canton, where the Hong Merchants exchange them, they then remove and reside at Canton in the foreign Factories. Foreign women brought with them were formerly permitted only to reside on board the foreign ships. In the 16th year of Keen Lung (A. D. 1751), they were first permitted to reside at Macao, but as yet no permission had been granted for them to be brought to Canton. In the 34th year of Keen Lung (A. D. 1769), Feishin, an Englishman, brought up a foreign woman to reside at Canton ; the foreign woman was taken in custody back to Macao, and a strict prohibitory proclamation was issued. There are still records hereof that can be examined.

“ After the 34th year of Keen Lung there have been reports of foreign women being clandestinely brought to Canton, or residing there in secret for several days ; but it has been without any person being aware thereof ; and they have afterwards been taken back to Macao. When this has been the case there are no records that can be examined.

“ It appears on inquiry, that in the spring of the present year, foreign women came to Canton and resided here secretly ; but just when orders were being issued to the Hong Merchants to drive them away they returned to Macao. Now the English Chief, Baynes, has again brought a foreign woman to Canton, to reside in the Company's foreign Factory ; and moreover the said Foreign Merchants coming on shore from their ships have entered their Factories sitting in sedan chairs. Your minister, Le, issued orders to the Hong Merchants immediately to drive out the foreign woman, and bid her return to Macao, and not hereafter to permit Foreign Merchants, when entering their Factories, to get into sedan chairs or sit in shoulder carriages. It is authenticated that the said Chief and others immediately thereon came to the four offices of us, your ministers, and at each presented a petition, praying for foreign women to reside in their Factories, and for permission to be granted to use sedan chairs ; the language of the petitioners was not clear and perspicuous, and the phraseology was far from humble. We, your ministers, have all, with strictness, rejected their petitions, and ordered them still to obey old regulations, and not in the least oppose them.

“ The said Chief and others having heard it falsely reported without, that soldiers were to be appointed to surround and expel the foreign merchant and foreign woman, became fearful and suspicious in their minds, and sent a general letter to all the ships anchored at Whampoa, ordering above 100 sailors, under cover of night, to take

take several guns, muskets, &c., conceal them in the hold of a small vessel, and clandestinely enter with them into the foreign Factories in Canton provincial city. The military stations immediately got information of it and reported; and we, your ministers, instantly gave secret orders to the officers of the military stations on land and water, not to make the least noise or motion, but to keep watch with increased vigilance, and ordered the Foo and Heen magistrates and the Wei-Yuen all to appoint trusty attendants in different places to examine carefully and suppress disturbance, and not permit native traitorous Chinese to hook on with, instigate and befool Foreigners and create riot, that hereby the Merchants and populace might be prevented from becoming alarmed or suspicious. We at the same time ordered the Hong Merchants and Linguists to speak sternly to the said Foreigners, demanding why they secretly brought guns, &c. to their Factories, and what were their intentions? It is authenticated that they declared that it was really because they had heard that soldiers should be immediately appointed to take the foreign man and foreign woman and drive them both out; that in the fear and excited feelings of the moment they took the muskets and guns which had been brought in their ships for the defence of their persons, and brought them up during the night; and that they really did not know that guns were things which were not permitted to be brought up. On examination, we, your ministers, find that the said Foreigners, in coming up to Canton and going down to Macao, have hitherto been permitted to carry two or three muskets with them, to protect themselves against thieves; this is really not prohibited; but as to the guns on board the ships, for many years they have not been permitted to be brought to the Factories at Canton. We again strictly commanded the said Foreigners speedily to take the guns and muskets, and immediately carry them back to the ships, and to make the sailors return quickly to Whampoa. After the lapse of some days the said Foreigners took the muskets and carried them away, and the sailors scattered and returned, but the guns still remain planted within the gate of the foreign Factory; and the Hong Merchants were requested to solicit for them, that a short time might be granted before the foreign woman was again ordered to Macao. We, your ministers, considering that the said Foreigner, Baynes, in the first place secretly brought a foreign woman to reside in this Factory, and in the next place, clandestinely transported guns and weapons from the ships to guard against being surrounded and expelled, both which are acts of presumption and opposition to old regulations, mad, rebellious, and irregular acts, have now again ordered the foreign woman to be immediately and speedily taken in custody back to Macao, and the guns that are still retained to be all carried back to the ships and kept there. If they really act in obedience to these orders and do not oppose, we, your ministers, will, looking up, take the tender intentions entertained by your sacred Majesty, and still permit them to continue trading as usual; but if they dare to delay or oppose, we will then, according to your Majesty's edict of last year, drive them out and expel them with severity, entirely stop their trade, and inflict a heavy punishment on them. We decidedly will not presume to make the least accommodation with them, thereby leading to the increase of the unruly disposition of the obstinate Foreigners.

"We, your ministers, consider, that though this time the offences of the Foreigners in opposing prohibitions have not brought us to the necessity of employing soldiers, yet the said Foreigners' original disposition has heretofore been unyielding and unfathomable. If it be necessary to keep them in awe by a military force, then it will be incumbent on your minister, King, to appoint officers and soldiers of the eight banners (that is Tartars) both on land and water, and unite them with the officers and soldiers whom your minister, Le, will appoint, that they may conjointly manage the business.

"Again, we by express present a prepared Memorial. Because this business has relation to Foreigners, and involves the dignity of the empire, we dare not refrain from stating the facts. With reference, we, in conjunction with your minister, King, the Too-tung of the right wing, unitedly present this secret Memorial, begging your Majesty's sacred glance at it. A respectful Memorial."

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated 8th December 1830.

THE Merchants this day waited on Mr. Davis, bringing with them two Edicts, one from the Viceroy respecting the late Committee, and another from the Kwang-choo-foo, concerning the residence of ladies in Canton. The one from the Viceroy

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was of so insulting and improper a character that Mr. Davis declined receiving it on his own authority, and told them they had better present it to the assembled Committee.

The following is a translation of the Kwang-choo-foo's Edict.

Fum Hoo, the Kwang-chow Foo; dated December 4th, received the 9th, 1830.

"Hoo, the Kwang-choo-foo, issues this to give orders concerning a certain affair.

"It appears that the Foreigners have disobeyed prohibitions, and presumed to bring Foreign Women up to the provincial city. The Governor's orders have been repeatedly received to drive them away.

"It has been officially reported to government that the Foreign Women brought by the English Chief, Baynes, and the American Foreign Merchant, Low, have been returned to Macao; but it is found that the English Foreign Merchant, Thornhill, and the Indian Foreign Merchant, Whiteman, both brought foreign women and servant girls, and they are still residing in the Foreign Factories. As yet no official report of their return to Macao has been sent in.

"Why do the Hong Merchants suffer them to procrastinate? It greatly indicates contemptuous trifling.

"Severe and intense orders have now been received from the Governor, urging the business, and it is decidedly impossible to suffer it longer for a moment.

"Beside issuing orders to the Nan-hae-heen to act in obedience thereto, this order is issued to the Hong Merchants, requiring them, as soon as they receive it, to enjoin its contents authoritatively on the said Foreign Merchant, Thornhill, requiring him, this very day, to take the foreign women and servant girls, and send them in custody back to Macao.

"Let an official answer be returned for careful examination. If disobedience and delay be still persisted in, the Security Merchant, the Linguist, and the Compradore shall all be brought up, and involved in a manner not expedient for them. Hasten! Hasten! These are the commands.

"Taou Kwang, 10th year, 10th moon, 20th day."

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated 11th December 1830.

THE Committee assembled to meet the Merchants. Previously to their arrival, the President stated to the Committee that they must in some degree feel prepared for renewed attempts at annoyance on the part of the government, in consequence of the late changes; and that the surest and most prudent mode would be to meet them with such a degree of temper and firmness at the very outset as would effectually check such a disposition. The other members of the Committee cordially coincided in these sentiments.

The younger Howqua and Mowqua having arrived, they delivered to the Committee the Viceroy's Edict respecting the late President, which was forthwith sent to be translated.

Mowqua then stated they were directed by the Viceroy to communicate his commands, that the Committee should instantly order the ladies now resident in Canton to return to Macao. This was refused; and they were told that by their own positive pledge and promise on the 29th October, no further annoyance was to be given on the subject, and that the question was then set at rest.

They then endeavoured to urge the point, by representing the persecutions they would be subjected to in consequence. We informed them that we deeply regretted such should be the case; that could we in any mode help them, we should be most willing; but that we could on no account recognize the principle that we were to be forced into compliance on that or any other point by an appeal to our feelings. We told them that such a compliance could not fail to be highly injurious to both parties; for that if the local authorities once entertained the notion that we could be induced to swerve from our resolutions by the imprisonment and persecution of those with whom we have intercourse, it would inevitably be resorted to on all occasions. We should here remark, that the younger Kinkua, who is the Hong Merchant, has been for some days past in prison at the Namhae's jail. The cause assigned is, that he secured a ship consigned to Mr. Whiteman, but which has now left the port nearly three months. Mrs. Whiteman has been residing in Canton for the last fortnight; and this measure has been resorted to by the government as the means of compelling her to return to Macao. The Merchants then withdrew, and the Committee separated.

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated 12th December 1830.

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THE following is a translation of the Edict yesterday received from the Merchants.

Document from the Hoppo Chung concerning Mr. Baynes, dated November 30th ; received December 11th.

“ Chung, by Imperial Appointment Hoppo of Canton, &c. to the Hong Merchants, Howqua and others.

“ I have received from the Governor a communication, on opening which the following appeared :

“ Last year the English nation's foreign ships delayed entering the port, in expectation of obtaining an alteration of the old commercial regulations, and repeatedly sent in dunning* petitions. Although the Chief, Plowden, joined his name with the others, I, the Governor, on making a minute and careful inquiry, have heard that the business all arose from Baynes, Millet, &c., wildly putting forth their lordly views†, and laying plans of perverse craftiness, so that the ships long remained anchored outside ; much of the cargo became mouldy and rotten, and all the Merchants were greatly injured.

“ This year Baynes falsely filled the office of Chief, and again presumed to oppose the prohibitions of the Celestial Empire ; brought women and girls to the provincial city, to dwell in the Company's Factory ; and at last, when his reasoning failed, and his heart became frightened, he ordered the sailors in the ships to bring up during the night five brass guns, muskets, &c., and arranged them at the gate of the foreign Factories for the purpose of defence. Such conduct as this was indeed the extreme of mad rebellion. It would have been right immediately to have inflicted extermination ; but considering that this was the crime of one individual, Baynes, I could not bear to involve all the Foreigners ; therefore I, the Governor, stooped to exercise clemency and forgiveness ; and not only forbore to inflict awful punishment, but also refrained from stopping the trade. I suppose this completeness of compassion for remote persons is what all the foreign Merchants of the said nation's ships universally know and have heard.

“ But Baynes audaciously exhibited every sort of contemptuous behaviour. Death is not sufficient to cover his crime !

“ I, the Governor, have already united with the Iseung Keun, the Foo Yuen, and the Hoppo, in a memorial to the Emperor on the subject. It is estimated that during the first decade of the 11th moon (before the 24th December) the Imperial will may be received.

“ I have now received a document from his honour the Hoppo, saying that a permit is requested by the Englishmen, Marjoribanks, Davis, Robinson, &c., to come to the provincial city.

“ I suppose they were chosen to be Chief, Second and Third, and have come to change the Committee. Since the said Baynes goes out of the chiefship, it is a question whether or not he should be ordered back to his own country. If hereafter we shall receive his Majesty's commands to take Baynes and punish his crimes, it will then be right that he be delivered over to be punished. He must not clandestinely steal away, in the hasty hope of getting off as if nothing had occurred.

“ Beside ordering the Hong Merchants, Howqua, &c., in obedience hereto, to go immediately and perspicuously enjoin the tenor of the above commands on the new Chief, and order him on the same day to write back perspicuously how Baynes is taken care of to be forthcoming. No excuses or procrastination can be allowed ; such conduct will involve him in heavy guilt.

“ Moreover, letters have been sent to the Poochingsse and Anchasisse, to unite and hasten to order the Kwang-choo-foo to take under his direction the Nanhachein, and communicate orders to the Hong Merchants, that they may, in obedience thereto, enjoin the commands of government on the new Chief and others, to write back, clearly stating in what place they have confined Baynes till the business be settled.

* Or insulting.

† Or decisions.

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“ Furthermore, it is right to make this communication to the Hoppo, that he may examine the contents, and act accordingly.

“ On this coming before me, the Hoppo, I forthwith issue an Order to the Hong Merchants.

[Here he repeats the last clause of the Governor's document.] “ Tremble at this!

“ Taow Kwang,
10th year, 10th moon, 16th day.”

“ A special Edict.”

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated 14th December 1830.

THE following Reply to the Governor's Edict having been approved of by the Board, the Merchants will be requested to attend the Committee to-morrow morning to receive it.

“ To his Excellency the Governor of Canton.

“ We have received your Excellency's Proclamation, bearing date the 10th year, 10th moon, and 15th day.

“ We beg to acquaint you, that, in compliance with instructions received from the authorities in England, to whom alone we look for all orders regulating our transactions in this country, we have undertaken the management of the affairs of the East India Company in China. It will at all times be to us a source of satisfaction if the amicable relations between the British nation and China can be preserved uninterrupted. It is therefore with much regret we have received your Excellency's Proclamation, asserting a right of interference with the servants of the Company in this country, which we beg firmly but respectfully to state we can never admit. In regard to the personal imputations directed against the late Chief of this Factory, we feel ourselves called upon altogether to disclaim them. It is stated that the ships of the Company were by him prevented entering the port, ‘in expectation of obtaining an alteration of the old commercial regulations;’ but, according to your Excellency's admission, the condition of the Hong Merchants had at that period become ‘sickened and debased,’ and foreign trade with China was in a state which imperiously called for amelioration. We are glad to think that that amelioration has in some measure been accomplished.

“ Mr. Baynes did not, as your Excellency has been most improperly informed, ‘falsely fill the office of Chief,’ but on Mr. Plowden's departure it became his duty to take upon himself that office, and to conduct, in concert with the other members of the Committee, the affairs of the East India Company.

“ In regard to the subject next alluded to in the Proclamation, to which we now offer a reply, namely, the resort of the wives of British subjects to Canton, we cannot but believe that your Excellency has, from the expressions which you have applied to it, been much misinformed. The Wives and Families of Foreigners have at all times been admitted to reside at Macao; nor have the laws of China ever prohibited their doing so. By your Excellency's predecessor, an English lady was ordered to be brought to Canton, who had unfortunately been wrecked in an English ship on the coast of Hainan, and was conveyed here with other persons in a Chinese trading vessel. It has frequently occurred that English ships have been the means of saving the lives of Chinese subjects who have been found cast away on some of the numerous islands in the seas adjacent to this empire. The mind dwells with sincere pleasure on such reciprocal good offices. Proofs alike of civilization and humanity.

“ In this country, where the relations existing between husband and wife, and parent and child, are held in such high and deserved estimation, we cannot believe that it could ever be your Excellency's wish to deny to foreign residents in Canton the possession of these advantages, on which, according to the maxims venerated in China, the moral condition and happiness of mankind so much depends. Such, we feel assured, could never be the intention of the benevolent mind of his Imperial Majesty, who so unremittingly inculcates the conjugal, parental and filial duties on his own subjects.

“ In reply to the statement, that the late Chief of the Factory acted violently in ordering armed men to Canton, we have only to mention that this was done in consequence of a formal intimation which was made by the Hong Merchants that the Factory was about to be attacked. Mr. Baynes being thus assured that the lives and property

property of British subjects were endangered, deemed himself called upon to protect them.

“ We could have much wished that we were not under the necessity of offering any further observations on the Proclamation to which we now reply, as we are still inclined to believe that your Excellency must be sufficiently conversant with the British character to be aware that we are incapable of being at any time induced by threatening language to diverge from the straightforward line of public duty. While serving our employers to the best of our humble power, we are unacquainted with a feeling of personal apprehension; we are insensible to such an influence. We dare not trust ourselves with quoting the expressions which have been applied to the late Chief of this Factory. We are desirous to address your Excellency in the language of truth, but in deference to the eminent situation which you hold, we wish to do so with respect. We cannot consider as applicable to an English authority the terms which have been used; they could only have been suggested to your Excellency by the misinformation of others; they could not emanate from a mind such as we are given to understand your Excellency possesses, governed by enlarged views, and directed by the principles of justice.

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EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated 30th December 1830.

WE have this day received the following Edict from the Governor, in reply to our Address, dated the 14th instant.

From Governor Le, dated 23d December, received on 24th, 1830.

“ Le, Cabinet Minister, Member of the Military Board, and Governor of the Two Kwang Provinces, hereby issues his commands to the Hong Merchants.

“ It is now authenticated that the English Chief, Marjoribanks, and others, have presented an official document, saying [Here follows a copy of the Committee's Letter of 14th December.]

“ This coming before me, the Governor, I have examined, and find that the merchant ships of England have come to Canton to trade upwards of a hundred years, and for so long a period there has been mutual tranquillity. In every instance there has been obedience to the laws and regulations of the Celestial Empire. None has dared to make the least opposition. Even with respect to the said nation's ships bringing married or unmarried women, they have invariably sent them on shore at Macao; they have never brought them up to Canton city to dwell in the Foreign Factories.

“ During the reign of Keen Lung, it happened by mistake that some were brought to Canton; but they were all sent back in custody to Macao. There are repeated cases on record which afford evidence of this; but the late Chief, Baynes, during the autumn of the present year, suddenly presumed to bring women with him to the Company's Factory to reside. Afterwards, Thornhill and Whiteman came forward, and imitated the bad example, thereby violating the interdicts of government.

“ I, the Governor, repeatedly issued orders on the subject, charging them intensely that it could not be allowed; but I neither added the punishment which could have awed them, nor suddenly stopped your* trade; because I could not bear, on account of the irregular wild conduct of the individual Baynes, to involve all the ships; hence it was that I acted with so much liberal forbearance. I really desired, for the sake of the said country, to preserve his trade entire. I suppose the said Chief and others since their arrival in Canton have heard all the detail.

“ Now that Baynes is gone, his offences may all be left to himself; originally they do not concern the present Chief and his colleagues. But you, the Committee, are persons sent by your own country to control the commercial affairs; you must no doubt be persons who clearly understand what is reasonable and just, and maturely acquainted with the regulations. It is your duty to lead all the Foreign Merchants; to keep every one of them in his proper place, and not transgress the usages. If any one brings women to Canton, it is incumbent on you to speak

* Here and below he quits speaking to the Merchants, and speaks directly to the Committee.

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plainly the correct sentiment, to reprehend him, and order him to hasten and return them to Macao. Moreover, you should previously caution all the people resident at Macao, and tell them that they are not allowed to bring their families to Canton. There you will go in the right way, which is incumbent on those who reside at Canton and have the general control. As to what is said in the petition, that husband and wife should not be separated, this refers to ordinary cases when living at home. If they go abroad, and become guests in a country, how can they be viewed according to the same rule? Besides, at Macao they may be sent to reside. Where is the necessity of overstepping the mark, and going to Canton?

“ Try to think of all the various nations whose Foreign Merchants come to Canton; there are a great many who do not bring their wives and daughters. How do they separate?

“ That a sudden and wilful violation of interdicts, which had been long obeyed, was a wild irregular act, I suppose the said Chief and his colleagues already know.

“ At this time it is especially incumbent strictly to order Thornhill to repent speedily, and alter his behaviour, not persisting in his former stupidity. Thus the strength of the said Chief will be competent to draw him back, for the time to come, from his past errors, and the affair will be completed on both sides.

“ To sum up the whole, the said nation's ships and merchants passing over such immense oceans come only for commerce; how can they be willing to indulge the idea of creating disturbance?

“ The Celestial Empire also decidedly will not treat harshly persons from remote parts. If indeed they implicitly adhere to old usages, and do not wilfully originate novel notions*, no doubt there will be mutual tranquillity. In order to affect this, I do not fear the toil of reiterating admonitions and cautions on the said Chief and his colleagues.

“ Uniting these things, this order is forthwith issued to the Hong Merchants, requiring them to enjoin its contents clearly and plainly on the said Marjoribanks and the others, that they may obey accordingly. Oppose not. Hasten! Hasten! These are the commands.

“ Taou Kwang, 10th year, 11th moon, 9th day.”

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated 29th December 1830.

WE have received from a private source the following copy of the Imperial Reply to the Memorial in our Secret Consultations, under date 30th November. The evident intention of it is to leave discretionary power to the officers of the local government to act according to circumstances.

Canton, 29th December 1830.

Translation of a document received privately from the Court of Peking.

“ On the 14th of the 11th moon of the 10th year of the reign of Taow Kwang (28th December 1830), a fire despatch (an express) was received from the military board, containing a letter from the great officers of army movements, saying, that King, the Teang Kuen of Kwang Chow, the Cabinet Minister and Governor of Canton, Le, the Foo-yuen-choo, and the Hoppo-chung, had memorialized, and on the 24th day of the 10th moon of the 10th year the supreme commands were respectfully received, stating:

“ It is authenticated that King and others have reported that the English nation's Chief, Baynes, had conveyed Foreign Women to the provincial city, to dwell in the Company's Foreign Factories; further, that the said Foreign Merchants had, in going on shore from their ships, sat in sedan chairs, and proceeded to their Factories,” (&c. as before translated: Emperor's Answer concerning the guns, &c.)

“ According to internal regulations, Foreign Women are not allowed to go to the provincial city to dwell, and Foreign Merchants are not allowed to sit in chairs and enter their Factories. Their bringing musketry and cannon is only for defence against pirates at sea; it is by no means allowed to convey them clandestinely into the city.

“ Now that the said Foreigners have presumed to disobey old regulations, King

* The allusion is to a tree shooting forth new branches.

and the others must issue strict and explicit orders, and cause them to obey and keep the old regulations. Hereafter they must not in the least degree oppose nor wilfully offend against the prohibitions. If still they dare to persist in opposition, then forthwith adopt measures to expel them, and exhibit primitive correction; there must not be the least approximation or giving in. It is necessary for the four persons named above, to consult and manage safely. Whilst cherishing tenderness towards outside Foreigners, still there must be no loss of the dignity of the arrangements of the Celestial Empire. To do this will be good management.

“Take these commands and make them known to King, Lee and Choo, that they may communicate the commands to Chung (the Hoppo) for his information. Respect this. In obedience to the Imperial will, we, the great officers, &c., send this letter.”

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EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated 4th January 1831.

WE have this day received from a private source the following copy of a Memorial to the Emperor from the heads of the local government, concerning the proceedings of the last few months. It evinces an equal disregard for truth as most documents of a similar description :

“Memorial to the Emperor from the Tseong Keun King, the Governor Le, the Foo Yuen Choo, and the Hoppo Chung, concerning the Supercession of the Select Committee, dated 1st January 1831.

“Your ministers, King, Lee, Choo and Chung, kneel and report. We before reported unitedly, that the English Chief, Baynes, had brought up a Foreign Woman to the provincial city, to dwell in the Foreign Factory; that the said Foreign Merchants, on coming on shore from their ships, entered the Factories seated in sedan chairs; and that, having erroneously listened to false statements of soldiers being sent to surround and expel them, they became suspicious and fearful, and clandestinely brought guns and muskets from on board their ships to the Foreign Factories at the provincial city. On the 14th day of the 11th moon of the present year (28th December last), we received a letter from the great ministers who direct the movements of the army, stating that the Imperial will had been respectfully received. [Here follows the clause of the answer which contains the Emperor's will.]

“On examination, we find that after this former prepared memorial the said foreigner, Baynes, getting a little knowledge of repentance and awe, on the next day took the great and small brass guns, and sent them severally back to the various ships. The foreign woman also returned to Macao. These things, at the several times of their occurrence, your minister Le, in conjunction with your ministers King and Chung, reported on attached slips of paper (or by postscript), as is on record.

“We, your ministers, on examining very minutely, find that the Foreigners of the said nation are indeed all stupidly obstinate, but that the Chief, Baynes, is still more so, perverse and obstinate to an extreme; and that in many cases it has been Baynes who has madly thrust forward his views and wishes. Other persons have been chosen in the said country to be Chief, second and third Supracargoes, and they having come to Canton to change places with (the former ones), Baynes has immediately been dismissed.

We, your ministers, have made inquiry as to the reason of this, and it is authenticated that, in reply, the Hong Merchants state that they have heard that because of Baynes having last year frequently presented petitions, madly hoping to change the old regulations of the trade, and having forcibly caused the various ships to delay entering the port, so that a large portion of the foreign goods were spoiled by mould and rust, the said country knew that it was Baynes and his colleagues who had involved themselves in this state of things, and therefore recalled him.

“We find on examination, that the Foreigners are covetous of profit, and very crafty and artful. It is not Baynes alone who is thus; so that although Baynes is now dismissed, it is difficult (or impossible) to ensure that in future those Foreigners who are put in his stead will not again madly form crafty plans. We can only immediately thereon examine and issue strict orders for them to understand, that hereafter it is absolutely necessary that the English Chief, and all the Foreigners of the various nations, pay implicit obedience to the prohibitions of the Celestial

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Empire, and tranquilly continue the ordinary course of trade.' If any should presume again to oppose, it will be our duty, in obedience to your Majesty's will, to form some plan for driving them out and inflicting severe punishment and correction, without in the slightest degree approximating to or making accommodation with them, in order thereby to make the dignity of the empire revered, and to keep in awe the stupid obstinacy of the barbarians.

"It is consistent with right reason that we should unitedly report again, by an added slip of paper (a postscript), begging a sacred glance at it. A respectful memorial."

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated 13th January 1831.

WE have this day received the following Document from the Merchants:

"Order from Governor Le, communicated by the Kwong-choo-foo to the Hong Merchants, dated January 12th, received 13th, 1831.

"Hoo, the Kwong-choo-foo, to the Senior Hong Merchants, for their full information. A document has been received from the Treasurer, who received it from the Governor, who says,

"The Imperial commands have been respectfully received, saying, 'Former regulations have disallowed Foreign Women residing at Canton; Foreign or Barbarian Merchants are not allowed to enter their Factories sitting in sedan chairs; and their bringing muskets and cannon is only to defend themselves against pirates at sea; they must not on any account clandestinely transport them to Canton. These Foreigners having presumed to oppose old regulations, you must issue strict, severe and explicit orders for them to obey, and keep the old regulations. Hereafter there must not be the least opposition or disobedience to prohibitions. If still they dare to procrastinate and resist, let them immediately be expelled by force, and a manifestation of chastisement exhibited. Respect this.'

"Having respectfully transcribed this, it is hereby sent to the Treasurer, to pass it to the Kwong-choo-foo, who must transmit it for implicit obedience. Examine into it, and act accordingly.

"I, (the Kwong-choo-foo) having received the above, have written to the Nanhayuen, commanding him to obey it; besides which I hereby issue an order to the Senior Merchants, that they may forthwith reverently obey and order with strictness, severity and perspicuity, the said Chiefs and others, one and all of them, to obey and keep the old regulations. They must not in the least oppose or violate the prohibitory orders of government. The Foreign Women who have been brought by Thornhill and Whiteman, and of whose return to Macao there is as yet no authentic report, must be urged and commanded to be removed to Macao this very day, and a report of the same presented to government. If they still dare to procrastinate and resist, assuredly his Majesty's commands will be implicitly obeyed, and a rigorous infliction of expulsion and chastisement be manifested. The said Hong Merchants also will greatly offend, and find it inexpedient. Tremble at this! Heedfully attend to this. Oppose not. These are the commands."

"Taou Kwang, 10th year, 11th moon, 29th day." (12th January 1831.)

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, 14th May 1831.

PRIVATE communications have been this day received, informing us of a visit made to our Factory on the 12th instant by the Foo Yuen, accompanied by the Hoppo and a strong party of armed attendants; likewise, that one of our Linguists had been put into chains in the public hall, carried away prisoner, and threatened with decapitation by the Foo Yuen; that Howqua was ordered to prison, and only released, after being an hour upon his knees, at the intercession of the Hoppo; that he had issued orders for the destruction of the property connecting the Honourable Company's Factory with the river. Further particulars were added, which we are unwilling to receive as authentic without a direct communication with the Hong Merchants. We consider it desirable that two members of the Committee should proceed to Canton as quickly as possible, who will be authorised by

by us to communicate with the officers of government, if necessary, and to act in any way which may seem to them conducive to the Company's interest. Messrs. Daniell and Smith are requested to undertake the mission, and will leave Macao early to-morrow morning. We shall reserve entering further into particulars until we receive some report from them.

(signed)

*Charles Marjoribanks,
J. F. Davis,
J. N. Daniell,
J. C. Smith.*

15th May.

Messrs. Daniell, Smith and Alexander left Macao in the Honourable Company's cutter.

19th May.

We have this day received the following report from Messrs. Daniell and Smith, who arrived this morning from Canton :

“ Monday, 16th May.

“ On our arrival in Canton this morning we found that the orders of the Foo Yuen had been already put into execution, and that the ground in the front of the Company's Factory was a scene of devastation. On the morning of the 13th instant workmen had commenced to pull down the walls, uproot the trees, and on the evening of the 15th the stone quay for the landing of our cargoes was begun to be destroyed. We lost no time in assembling the Merchants, and requiring an explanation of a proceeding so injurious to the Company's interest in every point of view. Howqua informed us, that on the morning of the 12th the Foo Yuen proceeded to the Honourable Company's Factory, accompanied by the Hoppo, and quite unexpected by the Hong Merchants; while walking in the garden, he ordered his attendants to uncover the late King's picture, and seating himself before it, sent for the Linguists. Atain, who appeared first, was questioned how he dared to permit the ground in the front of the Factory to be completed: and on his replying that he had no power to interfere in the business, the Foo Yuen ordered chains to be brought from a Mandarin's house in the neighbourhood, and to be put upon Atain; he threatened to have his head cut off if the premises were not reduced to the state they were in three years ago, within the space of two days; he threatened likewise immediate imprisonment, and probable decapitation, to Howqua, and it was only on his remaining for an hour on his knees that his punishment and that of Atain was remitted, at the intercession of the Hoppo, and ten days granted for completing his orders. The conduct of the Foo Yuen was throughout violent in the extreme; he made use of the coarsest signs of punishment at the Merchants, and Howqua expressed a deep sense of regret at the proceedings of this officer. He said that he had come upon them like thunder, and would not listen to a word of reason, but treated them as slaves; he added, that the Foo Yuen must have received especial orders from Peking, or that he would not have dared to act in opposition to the Viceroy on this disputed point, nor have been so indiscriminately violent in his mode of carrying them into execution. We stated to Howqua, in the first instance, how much blame we attached to him and the other merchants for suffering any channel of communication to convey information to us of the proceedings of the Foo Yuen before we received advices from them: he pleaded the extremity of his fears in mitigation of the negligence, which he admitted. The Merchants universally did not hesitate to affirm that they had agreed not to write, lest they should suffer severe punishment from the Foo Yuen for communicating with us on the subject, and added that they did not consider their lives safe in his present disposition. We then expressed our surprise and indignation at the proceedings of the Foo Yuen, who had not only caused the ground, which the Viceroy would not permit to be finished, to resume its former useless condition, but had destroyed works perfected openly, and without the opposition of the Canton government, and which were rendered necessary for commercial purposes by the encroachment on the river in front of the other Factories impeding the approach to our former quay. The Foo Yuen had thus destroyed a useful work, by the aggression and outrage which he had committed. We wished the Merchants to point out to him the injurious effects to the Company, and to request him to desist immediately from further destruction. Howqua assured us that he dared not even to speak upon the subject, far less attempt to reason with a man so violent and so dreaded, acting, as he believed, by the direct orders of the Emperor. After many fruitless attempts at persuasion,

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persuasion, we were at length compelled to postpone the further conversation on this business, perceiving how entirely the fears of the Hong Merchants precluded their affording us any assistance.

“ On the point of any orders having been received from the Emperor we have inclined to entertain doubts, nor can conceive them, if even they exist, to embrace the devastation now in progress, as the former question with the Viceroy did not extend to the destruction of the quay, but simply to filling up a space between it and the Factory. We are led to believe that the Foo Yuen, Tartar General, and Hoppo, acting in concert, and influenced by a dislike to the foreign policy of the Viceroy, which for a Chinese may be considered unusually liberal, have availed themselves of his absence to enforce with rigour and injustice a point which was formerly disputed between him and the Committee, but which has now attained a length not warranted by any previous circumstance, and altogether extrinsic from the former difference. His conduct is reported to have been violent, making allusions of a degrading nature towards Foreigners, the English in particular. We consider it imperative on us to address the Foo Yuen as quickly as possible, to evince that we are alive to proceedings of so discreditable a character to the Honourable Company's interests in this quarter, which, if not quickly remonstrated upon, might lead to further acts of violence materially affecting our commercial situation here: we wish to express to the Foo Yuen, that we do not view such useless destruction and aggression without a due sense of the injury it inflicts; and ignorant as he appears to be of foreign character, it is desirable that he should not conceive the influence of fear to have extended to us, such as he seems to have impressed on the Hong Merchants and his subordinates. With these views we have drawn up the following letter:

“ We, Messrs. Daniell and Smith, Members of the Select Committee, by Deputation from Mr. Marjoribanks, the President, and the said Committee, beg to address your Excellency.

“ We heard at Macao that your Excellency had issued instructions to the Hong Merchants and others, to effect some alterations in the ground in front of the Company's Factory; we were unwilling to credit the report; and it was with surprise and regret, on our arrival at Canton, that we saw the small portion of ground allotted to us by the government for the purpose of landing and shipping off the cargoes of our valuable trade had been invaded by the orders of your Excellency; that the property had been injured and partly destroyed; that the stone quay and embankments had been forcibly torn away by night; that numbers of Chinese were scattered about mutilating and defacing, under order issued by your Excellency; in short, that your Excellency had pressed upon the minds of Foreigners that no property was free from intrusion and violation in Canton, and how little security remained under the existing government. During the residence of his Excellency the Viceroy at Canton, the quay now destroyed was built openly and without opposition, to form one line with the public quay and landing-place by its side; and although his Excellency did not permit the ground within the wall to be completed, he never expressed a purpose to injure the quay and embankments granted for the beneficial purpose of facilitating commercial proceedings. Your Excellency, in the absence of the Viceroy on public service, has thought fit to enact the destruction of useful works, and to excite feelings of indignation in the minds of Foreigners residing quietly under the protection of the Chinese government. Thus uselessly irritating them, thus uselessly impeding the transactions of commerce, the friendly link between the two countries, in what does such conduct add to the respectability of your Excellency's government? As the representatives of the British nation in this country, we protest against this injurious act; and we confidently trust that your Excellency will issue orders to desist from further destruction of the ground allotted to us, and forthwith cause it to be restored to its state of former utility.

(signed) “ Messrs. Daniell & Smith.”

Tuesday, 17th May.

Having requested the attendance of the Merchants to present our address to the Foo Yuen, we were met by a general request that we would delay it for ten days, as the Merchants dreaded the idea of appearing before the Foo Yuen on the subject, more particularly at so early a date, when they would be accused of informing us on the subject. To remain passive under the present circumstances would

would have been impossible, as it would seem thereby that we were unconcerned spectators of the oppression, and unaffected by the injurious proceedings with which it had been accompanied; and it was not a valid argument that their fears of a public officer should operate to prevent us from remonstrating on acts of detrimental tendency to the interests of the Honourable Company and their commerce; nor would we permit our feelings of compassion towards the Merchants to prevent the transmission of an address which required immediate presentation. We therefore required that the letter to the Foo Yuen should be immediately delivered to him. In this they very reluctantly acquiesced, and our conference ended.

We were of opinion that no advantage could be derived by our further residence in Canton at this time. We were unable to place any impediment to the execution of the orders of the Foo Yuen, which were being actively carried on in our presence; and the further correspondence with that officer would be better conducted by the Committee than by our remaining to wait a reply in Canton. As it would probably be the opinion of the Committee, that further measures were requisite to check the progress of the Foo Yuen's proceedings to the prejudice of British interests, we conceived that our immediate return to Macao would be most desirable.

Wednesday 18th we quitted Canton, and reached Macao on the morning of the 19th.

(signed) *J. N. Daniell,*
J. C. Smith.

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, the 20th May 1831.

“ Letter of the Hong Merchants to the Select Committee of Supracargoes, accompanying the Eight Restrictions of Foreigners.

“ A RESPECTFUL Notification. On the 1st day of the 4th moon (May 12th) we received from the Nan-hae-yuen an Order which he had received from the Kwang-choo-foo, who had received it from the Pooching-ize, who had received it from the Governor. The order was on the subject of explaining old regulations, and deciding on what parts of them required modification by additions or diminutions.

“ We now send a Copy of the Order, and of an original Memorial sent to the Emperor, praying you, gentlemen, to examine them and act according to the tenor of them. This is what we earnestly pray of you, and for this purpose we forward the notification, and with compliments we remain, &c.

“ 4th moon, 6th day, (17th May 1831.)

(signed) “ By the Merchants.”

“ To Messrs. Marjoribanks, Davies and Co.

“ Order from the Governor, communicated by the Nan-hae-yuen, on the subject of Eight Restrictions on Foreigners, dated 12th, received 20th May 1831.

“ Puan, the Nan-hae-yuen, &c., hereby issues an Order to the Hong Merchants, with which they are required to make themselves fully acquainted. A communication has now been received from the Kwang-choo-foo, which being opened, is as follows :

“ On the 19th day of the 2d moon of the 11th year of Taou Kwang (9th March 1831,) a communication was received from Kwee, the Pooching-ize, stating that on the 9th day of the 2d moon of the 11th year of Taou Kwang (27th February), he had received the following communication from Le, the Cabinet Minister and Governor :

“ It appears that on the 6th day of the 2d moon of the 11th year of Taou Kwang (24th February), I, the Governor, united with Choo, the Foo Yuen, and Chung, the Hoppo, in sending a respectful memorial to the Emperor, explaining old regulations intended to guard against outside Barbarians, and deciding on the circumstances that required modification by addition or diminution. Besides awaiting till the vermillion pencil's reply be received, when it shall be respectfully recorded and communicated, I also took the original of the memorial to his Majesty, and communicate it forthwith. When sent to the Ize, let him pass it to the Foo,

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to deliver to the Heen, that he may make it known to the local, civil and military officers, and may also order the Hong Merchants to act in obedience to it. Oppose not. Accompanying is a copy of the original Memorial :

“ I, the Nan-hae-yuen, having received this, forthwith issue a Copy of it, for obedience thereto. When it reaches the said Merchants, let them immediately obey, and act according to the tenor thereof. Oppose not. A special Order.”

Annexed is a Copy of the original Memorial.

“ Taoukwang, 11th year, 4th moon, 1st day, (12th May 1831.)

“ Regulations to guard against Foreigners, proposed to the Emperor by Governor Le, Deputy-Governor Choo, and Hoppo Chung, in Council, 24th February 1831. Communicated to Foreigners by an Order of Government, dated 12th May, received at Macao 20th May.

“ A Memorial to explain old Regulations, intended to guard against outside Barbarians, and also certain deliberations to modify them, by additions and diminutions, that the same may be obeyed and kept. Looking up, we pray for the sacred glance at the business.

“ Canton provincial city being near the coast, and the place where foreign ships go and come, it is extremely fitting that the guard against them should be perfectly complete and close.

“ During the reign of Kienlung, the English Foreign Merchants having violated the prohibitions of the Celestial Empire, the then Governor Le*, the Yoar, proposed to the Emperor, and had enacted, five regulations to guard against outside Barbarians, which were available to keep them under controul; but through length of days they have gradually been neglected, and the execution of them relaxed.

“ In the ninth year of Taoukwang the English Foreign Merchants, having long deferred entering the port, because they solicited a diminution of the port charges, and again, last year, having secretly taken Foreign Women to live in the Factories, and by stealth conveyed guns to Canton, which things were reported to the Emperor at the time, although the said Foreigners repented, and did not end as they begun, with perverse opposition, still, the disposition of Barbarians being deceitful and crafty, it is absolutely necessary to carry into effect with severity the inhibitory orders, and to strengthen the guards against them.

“ But as to the old regulations that were enacted, present and former circumstances are different; and there are some points which require consideration and modification to suit the times, and then the whole may be obeyed and kept.

“ We, calling to our aid the Treasurer and Judge, took the old regulations, and deliberated on the modifications which the times require, and have charged the civil and military officers, the soldiers and police, to exert themselves in keeping up a constant patrol and guard, and have required the Hong Merchants and Linguists to be faithful in examining and searching into what is going on. Thus, when strictness inside has become a habit, or established customs inside are enforced with strictness, disturbances from outside Barbarians will be eradicated, and seemingly the principles of a good charioteer, in restraining and soothing his horse, will be more thoroughly carried into effect.

“ Having reverently associated with the Hoppo Chong, we unitedly present, with profound respect, this Memorial, and send a fair copy of the eight Regulations which have been deliberated on, for the Emperor's inspection, prostrate, praying for his Majesty's sacred perusal and instructions.

“ A Copy of the original Regulations to guard against Foreigners, together with the alterations which have now been made and arranged under eight topics, is hereby reverently presented for his Majesty's perusal.

“ 1st. Foreign Merchants must now remain over the winter at Canton. This in an old regulation, that should be modified too, keeping up at all times a guard against them.

“ When this regulation was originally framed, the foreign ships came to Canton, and anchored during the fifth and sixth moons; during the ninth or tenth they returned to their respective countries. They were not allowed to remain in Canton city to find out the price of goods, to make purchases and acquire profit, and to go

* Tradition says that the Governor had a share in Puankheya's house.

backwards and forwards, having intercourse with native Chinese, which originated traitorous connections. If the goods in their Hong were not all sold, and they wished for the time being to live at Macao, they were permitted to suit their convenience. On searching it is found, that in the time of Kienlung the foreign vessels which came to Canton did not exceed 30 or 40; but now they amount to 70 or 80, or even a 100.

“ Of late years the English Company’s barbarian ships have arrived in succession during the seventh or eighth moons, and, having exchanged their cargoes, have left the port in the twelfth moon, or onward to the first and second moons of the ensuing year.

“ The said nation’s Company’s Chief and Foreign Merchants, after the Company’s ships were gone and affairs completed, requested permits to go to Macao, and reside there till the seventh or eighth moons, when the said nation’s merchantmen came to Canton province; and then they requested permits to go up to Canton city, to superintend the commerce.

“ Exclusive of these there are the several nations of India and America whose foreign ships come to Canton. Their trade is coming and going at uncertain intervals, by no means like the English Company’s. Of these, under one man’s name, there may be one or two ships in a year that come to Canton, or three or four ships; or an individual may have no ship at all, but only goods consigned to him to sell in some other ship. These Foreign Merchants all remain at Canton to manage their affairs. As the foreign ships are now double what they were formerly, and the time of their anchoring is uncertain; beside, as they have remained at Canton transacting their commercial affairs for many years with mutual tranquillity, it is doubtless unnecessary to restrict them positively to the ninth or tenth moon to return to their own country.

“ Hereafter, if Foreign Merchants do indeed arrive early at Canton city, and all their goods be sold, then, according to the old regulations, let them reverse their oar at the appointed time; but if they arrive late in the eighth or ninth moons, and require time to sell their goods, let the Hong Merchants be charged to keep a strict oversight and controul over the Foreign Merchants residing in Canton; at the same time dealing justly, to make haste to pay the price of things; not being allowed to contract debts, and persist in delaying.

“ Let the Foreign Merchants of all nations, when their goods are sold, and business finished, whatever the time may be, go home with their ships, or go down to Macao and reside there. They must not intentionally delay their departure. By this modification Foreigners will all be prevented from lingering long in Canton, and traitorous natives will rarely have a pretext for forming illegal connections.

“ 2d. Borrowing Foreign Merchants’ money. It is right to eradicate the evil of contracting debts. When the regulations were originally established, Native Merchants violated prohibitions, by borrowing money of Foreign Merchants, and strung on, being led by hooded connections. At that time their offences were punished according to the law, for ‘forming connections with Foreign nations, and borrowing money to defraud.’ The money borrowed was prosecuted for and confiscated.

“ This old law against Hong Merchants borrowing money of Foreign Merchants was long strictly acted on; but the Hong Merchants, when Foreign Merchants left the port, eventually made a vague statement (whether they were indebted for balances or not) that affairs were concluded. These are unworthy of credit, and the gloss should be done away with. Hereafter, beside prosecuting and punishing according to law the Hong Merchants who borrow money of Foreigners, and string on and are led by hooded connections with them, the Foreign Merchants who trade with Hong Merchants must be made every year, when their affairs are concluded, to give into the Hoppo a voluntary written declaration for his examination, whether there be any outstanding claims or not. Then, should the Hong Merchants fail, the foreign claims which have been previously reported will be paid by instalments; those that have not been reported, even if prosecuted for, will not receive any attention from government.

“ And it must be ordered, that all balances due by Hong Merchants must be paid within three months. Procrastination will not be permitted; and when they are paid, the Foreign Merchant’s receipt must be presented to government, and preserved on record. If payment be not made within the limited period, it is allowed to the Foreign Merchant to prosecute. If he does not choose to prosecute, he may do as he pleases; but if he prosecute after the period has expired, govern-

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ment will pay no attention to his claims. This is to eradicate the trick of old and new claims being made to radiate upon each other.

“ 3d. The original interdict was to prevent Foreign Merchants hiring natives to serve them. This requires a little modification. The original regulations run thus: that Foreign Merchants, living in the Factories, were strictly interdicted from employing any other natives than Linguists and Compradores.

“ It is found by research, that of the natives who have been given to Foreigners to serve, there has heretofore been a class denominated (Shawan) servants. (Quasi dicat Lund Literati.) These have been long interdicted, and it is right still to act according to the old prohibition, and severely interdict them. But recently the Foreign Merchants of various nations who have come hither have much increased; they continually require people to look after their goods, to watch their gates, to carry water, and to carry goods; and the black demon slaves which the Foreign Merchants bring are by nature very stupid and fierce. If they (the Foreign Merchants) be compelled to use entirely black demon slaves, it is really apprehended that there will be such a large collection of them that in going out and in they will wrangle with the natives, and the arrangement turn out to be the creation of disturbance.

“ It is right to request, that hereafter the people necessary in the Foreign Factories for taking care of cargo, keeping the gate, carrying water, and carrying goods, be hired by the Compradore from among the natives, and he shall report their names and surnames to the Hong Merchants, who, with the said Factory Compradore, shall be made responsible for searching into what they do, and controuling them.

“ Should any of these people instruct and seduce the Foreign Merchants to act traitorously, let the Hong Merchants and Compradores report them to government, and request that they may be prosecuted.

“ 4th. After the Foreign Merchants enter the port and anchor, let there be at that place, as heretofore, military officers and soldiers appointed to search and examine. In the Hong Merchants' Factories, where Foreigners live, let them be under the restraint and controul of the Hong Merchants, to prevent disturbance.

“ The regulations originally enacted were, that when the foreign ship had entered the port and anchored at Whampoa, a military officer and 12 soldiers should be sent from the Kwang-heep: these were to construct a mat shed and keep guard. A military officer also was to be selected, sent from the Tit penow, to search and examine; and from the adjacent military station a row-boat was to be sent to unite with another boat sent from the left wing of the middle division in searching and examining. After the ship left the port they were to be recalled. In these arrangements there is no occasion to make any change; but from length of days these orders are considered mere form. It is right to make continually a secret search; and if the military become remiss and steal repose, to punish them severely forthwith.

“ As to Foreign Merchants lodging in Hong Merchants' Factories, it has heretofore been the duty of Hong Merchants to govern and controul them. *The purchase of goods made by them must pass through the hands of a Hong Merchant.* This was originally designed to guard against traitorous natives misleading them, teaching them, and egging them on. Hereafter the Foreign Merchants dwelling in the Hong Merchants' Factories must not be allowed to presume of their own accord to go out and in, lest they should trade and carry on clandestine transactions with traitorous natives.

“ The boats in Canton river in which they go must not be allowed to set sail and go fast, lest they rush against native boats on the river, and wrangle and quarrel. They must not be allowed to wander about the villages and market-places near Canton, in order that bloody affrays may be prevented.

“ 5th. Foreigners clandestinely taking Foreign Females to dwell in the Factories and at Canton, and their ascending to sit in shoulder chariots (sedan chairs), must both be interdicted.

“ It is found on inquiry that the Foreigners of every nation bringing wives and women servants to Canton city to dwell has long been interdicted; but last year the English Chief violated the law and brought them. They have already been expelled, and driven back to Macao. It is found out that the woman he brought to Canton was brought by the said Foreign Merchant from his own country. The women servants who followed them were Portuguese of Macao hired to serve.

“ Hereafter

" Hereafter it is right to issue strict orders to the Chief Foreign Merchants of every nation, disallowing their bringing Foreign Women to Canton to reside. If they dare wilfully to disobey, their trade will be forthwith stopped, and they immediately sent under escort to Macao. At the same time let it be made the duty of custom-house cruizers, officers and soldiers, in the event of meeting Foreigners carrying females to Canton, to intercept them and sent them back.

" Further, let orders be given to the Tungche of Macao to transmit orders to the Portuguese Foreign Headman, *Wer leto*, and the Franchae (or Foreign Envoy), that hereafter other Foreigners hiring women to serve are allowed to reside at Macao only. It is not allowed to the Macao authorities to permit their being taken to Canton. If there be disobedience to this order, *Wer leto* alone will be responsible.

" As to Foreigners using chairs in Canton, it all arose from traitorous vagabonds giving them, and chair-bearers coveting gain. Besides ordering Foreigners of every nation to yield obedience, and that hereafter they must not at Canton city ascend the shore in sedan chairs; let it be strictly interdicted for traitorous Merchants to give chairs to or hire chair-bearers for Foreigners. And if chairmen scheming to obtain gain dare to disobey this order, as soon as it is discovered let them be seized and severely prosecuted.

" 6th. It is right to make it the duty of custom-house cruizers, officers and soldiers, with more strictness and care to interdict and prevent Foreigners from conveying guns and muskets to Canton.

" The interdict against Foreigners bringing muskets and guns to Canton was originally very strict; but last year there was a Foreigner who suddenly and by stealth conveyed muskets and guns to a Foreign Factory in Canton, violating in an extreme degree old regulations. Hereafter let it be the duty of custom-house cruizers, officers and soldiers, to be faithful in endeavouring to find out such attempts; and if Foreigners should by stealth convey guns or other arms to Canton city to the Foreign Factories, immediately to intercept them, and not allow their proceeding. If the officers and soldiers fail in discovering such attempts, or if, still worse, should they know of them and connive at them, let the said officers and men be immediately brought up, tried and sentenced.

" 7th. In case of English Company's Captains* going backwards and forwards in boats, and Foreign Merchants' cargo vessels receiving clearances to quit the port, it is right to obey the standing regulations.

" Of the foreign ships that trade, the company's Captains, when it occurs that they have public business to attend to, go backward and forwards in Sanpan boats, to interdict and stop which is difficult. It is right to allow them, as heretofore, to go in boats. If they carry contraband goods, let the custom-house officers and soldiers examine strictly and report for the management of the affair. But heretofore there must be a foreign headman or captain in her before a Sanpan boat is allowed to go with a flag set. If there be no headman or ship-captain in her, it must not be allowed irregularly to sail a boat with a flag; still let the old regulation be adhered to, to prevent confusion.

" In going from Macao to Whampoa and Canton, and from Canton to Whampoa and Macao, let a *permit* † be requested. They must not go and come when and as *they please*. Doing so will be an offence that will be inquired into.

" As to Foreign Merchants, cargo vessels receiving a red chop (or clearance to quit the port), heretofore application has been made to the Custom-house. Let it still be the duty of the Custom-house to inform the forts on every such occasion, that they may examine and let go, and so stoppages and disturbances be prevented.

" 8th. It is necessary to make arrangements concerning Foreigners presenting petitions. Whether a distinction should be made in affairs of importance, and it be settled when they must be presented for them, and when they themselves may present them. There must be explicit and fixed regulations, determining whether the Hong Merchants are to present petitions for Foreign Merchants, or they are to present them themselves. Then a confused way of acting, and one exceeding what it proper, may be prevented.

" Let an Order be issued to the English and other Foreign Merchants, requiring their obedience thereto, that hereafter if any very important affair occur, which it is

* Skippers.

† A Red Chop.

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absolutely necessary to convey to the Governor's office, let the petition be delivered to the Senior Hong Merchant or Security Merchant, to present it for them. *It is not allowed that Foreigners should presume to go to the city gate and present it themselves.* If the Senior Merchant or Security Merchant persist in intercepting it, and will not present it for them, so that foreign affairs cannot be stated to government, it is then permitted for Foreigners to carry the petition to the city gate, and deliver it to the military officer on guard. When they present a petition, one or two Foreigners only are allowed to proceed with it. They are not allowed to take a number of men with them to blazon abroad the affair.

"If the business be of a common-place nature, and the Hong Merchants have not refused to present it for them, or the topic be one which it was improper to present, then the Foreigner who shall perversely offend, and take a number of people to the city gate to present a petition, that Foreign Merchant's trade shall forthwith be stopped one month, and he be disallowed to buy or sell any goods, thereby to chastise his disrespect."

"Petitions concerning ordinary topics of trade must be presented at the Hoppo's office, and ordinary petitions concerning local occurrences must be presented to the Macao Tungche, or Heanshang Heen, on the Macao Tsotang, in all which cases it is allowed to appeal as usual."

Letter from the Hong Merchants, accompanying an Order from the Auchaze, communicated by the Nan-hey-yuen, against Foreign Females going to Canton.

"A respectful Notification. On the first day of the fourth moon (12th May) we received from the Nan-hey-yuen an order received by him from the Auchaze, who had received it from the Governor, declaring that for Foreigners of any nation to take with them Foreign Females to Canton is in opposition to the regulations and prohibitions. The order we have now received reprimands us, and condemns the Linguists to be punished by the cudgel, and declares that the 'prohibitions must be implicitly obeyed, and if the Foreigners again oppose, and presume to bring Females to Canton, a memorial shall assuredly be sent immediately to the Emperor, and they shall be driven out with severity, and for ever be disallowed to come to Canton to exchange their goods and take away our products.'

"We now send a Copy of the Governor's Order, praying you, gentlemen, to act according to the tenor thereof, and enjoin on all the gentlemen of your honourable nation that they act in obedience thereto. This is what we pray, and for this special purpose we send this Notification, and remain, &c.

"4th moon, 6th day."
(17th May 1831.)

(signed) "By the Merchants."

To Messrs. Marjoribanks, &c. &c.

Order from the Auchaze, or Judge, communicated by the Nan-hey-yuen, against Foreign Females going to Canton. Dated 12th, received 20th May 1831.

"Kwan, the Nan-hey-yuen, &c., hereby issues an Order to the Hong Merchants, with which they are required to make themselves fully acquainted. An order has been received from the Auchaze to the following effect:

"An order has been received from Le, Member of the Cabinet, and Governor of Canton and Kwangze Provinces. I, the Judge, and others, having assembled to deliberate on the subject of the Foreign Merchants of various nations bringing Foreign Females to dwell at Canton, and having by order examined and investigated, and also deliberated and decided respecting the Hong Merchants and Linguists, have received the following reply from the Governor:

"Let the Hong Merchants, Wooshow Chang (Howqua, junior) and his fellow Merchants, be condemned, as was decided, to be chastised by the bamboo; but let them, according to law, pay a ransom, and let them be prosecuted for the ransom money, and it be put into the public treasury. Let the Linguists, Tsaemow (Atam) and his fellows be also, as was decided, punished by the cudgel, but not dismissed from their situations. And let the Compradores, Tang-ke and his companions, be immediately dismissed from their situations, delivered into the custody of local sureties, and not allowed to remain any longer in the Foreign Factories.

"Take all these circumstances, and order the Hong Merchants to enjoin them on the Foreigners of every nation, that they may obey accordingly. Hereafter they must

must pay implicit obedience to the prohibitions of the Celestial Empire, and trade peaceably in their proper situations.

"If they dare again to oppose, and presume to bring Foreign Females to Canton, a memorial shall assuredly be sent immediately to the Emperor, and they shall be driven out with severity, and for ever be disallowed to come to Canton to exchange their goods for our products. No lenity or forgiveness can ever again be solicited.

"Wait till you also have received a reply from the Foo Yuen.

"I, the Judge, have also received the following reply from Choo, the Foo Yuen of Canton province.

"There has now been received a gracious Edict from the Emperor, that all offenders condemned to the punishment of the cudgel or the bambo should be fully pardoned. Now, in the cases of Wooshow Chang and others brought before government, they were condemned before the gracious edict was received; it is incumbent, therefore, that they be pardoned. I send you this that you may examine fully. Order obedience hereto, and report back to me. Wait till the Governor again replies.

"On receiving this, I, the Judge, have examined, and find, that on the 12th day of the first moon was received the gracious will of the Emperor, and the decision of the Board, that all offenders condemned to wear the cangue, or to be beaten with the cudgel, should be fully pardoned. Now the cases of Wooshow Chang and the others brought before government being previous to the gracious edict, the punishment of the bamboo and the cudgel, to which the Hong Merchants, Wooshow Chang and others, the Linguists, Tsae-Mow and others, and the Compradores, Tsang-ke and others, were condemned, must be remitted, as well as the ransom for their offences. Tsae-Mow and his Fellow-Linguists are also not to be dismissed from their situations; but Tsang-ke and his fellows are to be dismissed, delivered into the custody of sureties, and not permitted to remain any longer in the Foreign Factories, according to the tenor of the above replies.

"Besides presenting a prepared Report hereof, and communicating this to the Pooching sye, I also unite the above circumstances, and forthwith send this prepared Order to the Heen, that he may manage the affair accordingly.

"Let him immediately take the Hong Merchants, Linguists, and Compradores, and remit the punishment of beating to which they were condemned, and remit also the ransom required of Wooshow Chang and his colleagues, and let the dismissal of Tsae-Mow and his companions be remitted; but let Tsang-ke and his companions be dismissed, delivered into the custody of sureties, and not allowed to remain any longer in the Foreign Factories.

"Take all these circumstances, and order the Hong Merchants to enjoin them on the Foreigners," &c.

[Here follows a reiteration of the last paragraph in the Governor's Reply, given above.]

"Tremble hereat! Intensely! Intensely!"

"Annexed is a copy of the deliberations mentioned at the commencement of this Paper, for your perusal.

"Viewing this, I, the Nan-hey-yuen, unite the above circumstances, and issue this Order to the said Hong Merchants, that they may manage the affair accordingly, and immediately enjoin these orders on the Foreigners," &c.

[Here again follows a reiteration of the Governor's last paragraph.]

"Let each tremblingly obey! Oppose not! Hasten! Hasten! A special Order.

"Annexed is a copy of the deliberations, for you to look over.

"Taoukwang, 11th year, 4th moon, 1st day." (12th May 1831.)

From the intelligence communicated to us from Canton, we were impressed with the idea that the conduct of the Foo Yuen on the 12th instant and the orders he then issued, were merely preparatory to some further stop to the prejudice of our commercial interests. The character which that officer bears amongst his own countrymen, and his avowed dislike to Foreigners, inclined us to contemplate the exercise of his influence towards rendering our situation in this country more insecure, and towards placing some additional barriers to our commercial intercourse with China; we are however in hopes that the violence which characterized his conduct on the 12th instant, might have rendered him averse to do more at present than to issue some edict of a similar character with his proceedings, which though

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of prejudicial import would not have comprehended a systematic attempt to destroy every safeguard which we now possess for conducting commerce with security. Of the eight propositions set forth in the document now before the Board, there are some of ancient date, fallen into disuse from their obvious inutility, and whose revival tends more to evince the disposition of the Foo Yuen than to any other purport. Others there are of a more fatal tendency, which although we might, for the apparent prospect of conducting the Honourable Company's affairs in tranquillity, pass over with silence and inaction, we are perfectly confident that we should only thereby strengthen the feelings which have prompted the imposition of these injurious clauses, and that the Foo-Yuen would not hesitate to put them directly into force, and even to enact an additional code more restrictive, and, if possible, more fatal; while an immediate opposition on our part, by correspondence with the Chinese government, and by such other means as we may think it necessary to adopt, may check the evil in its commencement, or at all events prevent its future progress to extremities which it is scarcely possible to foresee, and to which a man ignorant of or inattentive to the advantages of commerce, and acting upon a principle of hostility to Foreigners, may possibly conduct it. We are deeply sensible of the importance of the interests entrusted to us. We have shown a steady disposition to avoid any correspondence but of a friendly tenor with the officers of government, and we trust that we shall be enabled, by a firm and judicious conduct at this momentous crisis, to extricate our commerce from the difficulties which surround it, without encountering the evils attendant on a prolonged discussion with the Chinese government. But our views can only be realized by promptitude of action, and by the preservation of the advantageous position we now occupy, from the violent proceedings of the Foo Yuen, and the extreme danger conveyed in the proposed restrictions.

In our public Consultations on the 4th instant we had to record a very severe blow inflicted on our commerce by the imprisonment and death of the Woo Yay, the conductor of Goqua's Hong. The cause of his unmerited misfortunes was avowedly his connection with Foreigners, or, in other words, his steady and valuable services as a merchant not passive to the exactions of the local authorities, and pursuing a line of commercial conduct independent of that feeling of combination which so generally prevails among the Chinese. The loss of one or two more respectable merchants equally innocent, would render our commercial footing altogether untenable.

The nature of this proceeding is such as to place it out of our power to notice it to the Chinese government. The power to punish their own subjects cannot be denied. Our interference at an earlier date would only have confirmed the plea of Woo Yay's accusation of a traitorous correspondence; and any observation at the present moment would evince, unfortunately, how tangible we are on the point of the seizure and punishment of native merchants and others who may have merited our confidence. Our sense of what is due to the man and to the Company's interests, in defending him, must be sacrificed to the policy of preventing the evil from spreading further.

The forcible entrance into our Factory by the Foo Yuen and his armed escort, the studied insults of a national and injuries of a commercial nature, by the orders of that officer, are of a highly dangerous character, and require some security against the recurrence of similar acts; if otherwise, we are placed at the mercy of every intemperate person who may be appointed to a high office in the province. The seizure of one of our Linguists; his being chained in the Company's hall; his life threatened; and Howqua in one Factory threatened with the same ignominious punishment for his connection with us, and only released at the intercession of the Hoppo, are acts which, impending over our daily intercourse with the Chinese, have the natural effect of shaking the confidence of the natives in us, and rendering ours a disgraceful and more than ever a dangerous service. We could not in safety pass over such instances without remonstrating against them, and endeavouring at least to regain our former privileges. We need scarcely say that we are viewed as the authorities of greatest importance among the Foreign residents in China; and were we to pass over such proceedings unnoticed, our Factories would not be for a moment safe from intrusion, nor the valuable property often in our warehouses secure from spoliation; since, upon the recent intrusion of the Foo Yuen, every Chinese in our employ fled from our premises in alarm for his safety.

The guard of Chinese soldiers which it is enjoined is to be placed over each of our ships on arrival in port, would lead to the constant interference of these persons on board

board our ships ; to the daily collision between them and the sailors, from which the worst consequences might be expected ; added to which, Chinese soldiers in this province are nothing more than a rabble hired for the occasion at very low wages, and without any discipline. Our officers and men would become prisoners under the surveillance of a description of persons who would be only too happy in the opportunity of creating disturbances, as an almost certain source of profit to themselves.

The right of presentation of petitions at the city gates is, under our present relations with China, indispensable. It often occurs that a Chinese officer refuses to receive our addresses through the regular channel, and the only alternative has been the privilege, hitherto admitted, of presenting them at the gates of Canton. And although the present restriction permits petitions to be presented on important topics, or if the Hong Merchants decline to bear them, it is so modified as to disavow the right of presentation at the city gates subsequent to a document being refused through the regular channel ; and this is the alternative in which petitioning is almost always resorted to. The necessity of this privilege has been so universally and so constantly apparent, that it were superfluous to argue further upon the injury which the order in question embraces.

The prohibition against the use of foreign boats conveys much more than meets the eye. There is no instance in which promptitude of conveyance or communication can be insured but by foreign boats ; and the fact is clearly evident from the circumstance that every house of business possesses one, and several two boats, manned by lascars. According to Chinese regulations, a chop boat is the only licensed mode of conveyance ; and be the circumstances ever so urgent, or of ever so great importance, a week, or if at Macao, a fortnight must elapse before the license and boat can be procured. It is obvious, that if the officers of government, or the Hong Merchants, have an interest in delaying or refusing the pass, we should be entirely at the mercy of either party, but for foreign boats. The case of the recent occurrences in Canton is particularly in point. A native fast boat cannot, under any circumstances, be relied upon ; it is an illicit mode of conveyance ; and a passenger is liable to seizure and confinement, a circumstance of by no means uncommon occurrence here.

The order which is now for the first time promulgated, that the Hong Merchants are to prevent Foreigners from ingress and egress at their Factories, strikes at the very root of commercial operations. Such an order can scarcely be acted upon ; but still its existence renders us liable to constant insults and annoyances in the streets of Canton, and precludes that intercourse with Hong Merchants and others which is absolutely necessary in our daily business. In fact, it places us close prisoners in our Factories, and worse than ciphers for the proper discharge of our commercial duties. The same proposition strikes a death-blow to the Viceroy's former permission to Foreigners to deal with outside Merchants, as it distinctly enjoins that they shall deal with none but Hong Merchants ; and it is in fact a necessary consequence of the prohibition against egress from the Factories.

The interdict against Chinese servants is likewise of most injurious import ; if acted upon, an influx of European servants to Canton must necessarily ensue, the evils of which are quite apparent. If only held in abeyance, it renders our service a clandestine and illegal employment for the Chinese, who is always liable to seizure, fine and imprisonment. It has the evil effect of destroying all confidence in the natives in our employ ; nor could we ever appeal against them, however great their crimes, if, in the characters of master and servant, both parties were guilty of an illegality.

One of the edicts now before us denounces our Compradore, Arning, by the name of Tsung-ke, and orders him imperatively to be dismissed from our service. This man has been attached to the Factory for seventeen years, and some of the members of his firm hold the different responsible situations which require natives to fulfil. His departure, independent of the evil conveyed in the principle of our servants being dismissed at the will of the local authorities, would be to us a serious inconvenience ; and it necessarily follows that we should be compelled to take as substitutes any persons pointed out to us by the merchants or the government, as no one would otherwise be found to offer himself, under the present circumstances.

We cannot conceive any greater difficulties to be imposed upon our intercourse with this country than those which we have above enumerated, almost without a comment, merely with explanation sufficient to place them in a clear point

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of view; nor do we hesitate to observe, that if they were to be acted upon to the letter (and what security have we to the contrary?) foreign commerce could not be conducted at Canton.

We are fortunate in the period which the officers of government have selected for acting thus offensively, and promulgating their restrictive instructions. Our season of commerce would not, under ordinary circumstances, commence before the 1st of October. The interval is open for negotiation, and for acting in such a manner as to impress upon the minds of the Chinese that we are earnest in our endeavours to preserve our commercial interests unimpaired, and not to admit the imposition of regulations, which, fraught with injury towards us, possess no redeeming qualities whatever.

Nothing is further from our intentions than to enter into collision with the Chinese government, and our views are to preclude the chance of it by timely precautions, to prevent, if possible, any delay in our commercial transactions of the approaching season. At present we do not see the necessity of advancing any positive propositions in our correspondence with the government, but to acquaint them, that if they proceed in acts destructive to our commerce, nor offer any redress for those already committed, we shall be compelled at an early date to suspend it. We thus afford the Chinese authorities the option of abstaining from the further enactment of their obnoxious regulations; and it is left open for us, should their conduct not render a contrary course imperative on us, to continue our trade without further comment, or in the way most conducive to its future prosperity.

In pursuance of the views expressed in this Consultation, we propose to dispatch Mr. Lindsay to Canton, to deliver up the keys of the Company's Factory to the Hong Merchants, for them to convey to the Foo Yuen, with a letter expressive of our intentions, and regret at the orders he issued on the 12th instant; stating at the same time, that we will not retain the Factories while they are not secure from such intrusion, and our premises from destruction.

We consider it important that the British Merchants in Canton should be made acquainted with the possible necessity of suspending the commerce at a future period. A notice to this effect will likewise convince the Chinese that such a course will be adopted if their acts render the proceeding necessary. We are of opinion that the 1st of August next will be a proper period to fix upon; and that no misconstruction may prevail on a subject where so much property is involved, we will draw up a statement containing the heads of the different grievances which have compelled us to contemplate the measure in question.

As we conceive that a letter from the Governor-General to the Viceroy of Canton might be attended with very beneficial results pending our probable discussions, and might, by opening a channel of personal negotiation, become the means of warding off much of the possible evil, we shall, by the first opportunity, address his Excellency on the subject, and submit for his consideration the different points which a letter from him to the Viceroy appears to us well calculated to remedy. And we would further propose that he should, with as little delay as possible, dispatch it on board a vessel of war, entrusting it to the Commander for presentation to the Viceroy. The knowledge that such a vessel had arrived might be of much benefit; and as it would come for a defined and estimable purpose, the usual objections made by the government would be obviated; and should the Chinese government afford us, by their future conduct, sufficient reason to think that our commerce may be conducted in safety, still such a letter, conveyed in the manner we propose, could not fail to be highly useful. It is too apparent, that when a Chinese officer has the power of enforcing, on his own authority, such acts as have been recently committed, and such regulations as are now before the Board, it is a principle which cannot be too quickly opposed, and, if possible, some security against their recurrence provided. With the limited means of remonstrance in our power, we believe that the plan we are about to adopt will be most likely to lead to a successful termination. We subjoin the several documents to be conveyed to Canton by Mr. Lindsay, who will leave Macao this evening.

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 20th May 1831.

“ Address from the Select Committee to His Excellency the Governor, the Foo Yuen, the Hoppo.

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“ It is with deep regret that we are compelled, under existing circumstances, to address your Excellency ; but certain events have lately occurred in Canton which leave us no other alternative.

“ The British Factory was a few days ago visited, without any previous intimation, by their Excellencies the Foo Yuen and Hoppo, with their armed attendants. Our Chinese servants fled at their approach ; our public hall was forcibly entered ; a Chinese Linguist seized for his alleged connection with us, thrown into chains in the hall, and threatened with immediate death.

“ The gates leading from the river to the Factory have since, we are given to understand, by his Excellency the Foo Yuen's order, been torn down, the flight of steps removed, the quay on which goods are landed demolished, the trees in the garden uprooted, the place laid waste, and the work of devastation still going forward.

“ These occurrences have taken place without any reason assigned, after the commercial affairs of the season were concluded in tranquillity, and while we were peaceably residing at Macao, with a resolution, as far as in us lay, to preserve unimpaired our pacific intercourse with this country.

“ We have no means at present of protecting our property against aggression ; we therefore abandon it ; and have transmitted to his Excellency the Foo Yuen the keys of the British Factory in Canton. We beg most respectfully, but at the same time most distinctly, to state, that, subjected to such occurrences, we cannot conduct our intercourse with China, which if exposed to such acts must terminate at an early date.

“ We have the honour to remain, with high consideration,
Your Excellency's most obedient servants,
(signed) “ By the Committee.”

“ 19th May 1831.”

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 20th May 1831.

“ Notice by the Select Committee.

“ SEVERAL recent acts of the Chinese government have compelled the President and Select Committee to intimate to the authorities in Canton, that while exposed to them it is impossible that commercial intercourse could continue ; and to acquaint the British community, that unless the acts complained of were removed, or security against their recurrence obtained, such intercourse would of necessity be suspended on the 1st of August next.

“ The acts of the Chinese government, which the Select Committee have adopted as the grounds of this proceeding, are the following :

“ The seizure, close imprisonment, and subsequent death of a Hong Merchant, his alleged crime being his ‘traitorous connection’ with the English. No association ever did take place with this Merchant except of an extensive commercial nature ; and in his mercantile dealings he proved himself an intelligent and most industrious man.

“ The recent attack made upon the British Factory in Canton by their Excellencies the Foo Yuen and Hoppo, (in the absence of the Governor, the principal officer of the Canton government,) accompanied by a numerous body of armed attendants, without any previous intimation of their intentions ; the forcible entry of the public hall of the Factory ; the abandonment of the Factory by all the Chinese servants, who fled under the greatest alarm ; the tearing down of the covering from the King of England's picture, which was otherwise treated with indignity ; the threatening the senior Hong Merchant with imprisonment and death, and the compelling him, and others who were present, to remain for upwards of an hour upon their knees, on account of their connection with the English ; the seizure of the senior Linguist, who was thrown into chains in the Company's Hall, and orders given for his execution, which was only suspended on

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the repeated intercession of the Hoppo and Hong Merchants, when he was committed to prison; the breaking down of the gates of the Factory leading to the river; the destruction of the quay built by the express sanction of the Governor of Canton; the demolition of the walls; the uprooting of trees, and general devastation of the property.

“ The death of the Hong Merchant above stated, and the occurrences briefly mentioned, have taken place since the commercial business of the season was concluded in perfect tranquillity, and while the President and Select Committee were residing at Macao, resolute in their determination to leave no means in their power untried to preserve a pacific intercourse with this country. Two members of the Select Committee proceeded to Canton to seek redress from these acts of the government. Their remonstrance has been unattended to, and the demolition of the Company's property is going forward, the natives employed continuing at work during the night. Further intimation has been given to the Select Committee, that these were only the commencement of a course of proceedings of a similar character; and a Proclamation has been received by them, issued in the name of the principal officers of the Canton government, interdicting the employment of native servants, and the presentation of petitions at the city gates, precluding all communication with Canton by means of foreign boats, and ordering bodies of Chinese soldiers to act as a guard on the ships at anchor at Whampoa. The Proclamation is accompanied by a threat, that should Foreigners decline submitting to the commands of the government, ‘ they will be expelled from the country, and for ever prohibited from coming to Canton for the purposes of commerce.’

“ The Select Committee abstain from adverting to minor grievances. The foregoing, they regret to think, are more than sufficient to justify them in the course which they are compelled to pursue. They will deem it their duty immediately to communicate the state of affairs in this country to the Supreme Government of India. They refrain from attempting to characterize the acts which they complain of. Under the influence of the most pacific disposition, their present decision is the result of calm and deliberate consideration. They feel confident in the support of the Court of Directors of the East India Company, who, guided by mature judgment, will discern that the credit and security of their commerce cannot, under such circumstances, be maintained; and should an appeal be made to His Majesty's Government, they are equally confident that British national character and commercial interests in China will be too plainly seen to be inseparably associated to admit of the possibility of their being with safety disunited.

“ Published by order of the President and Select Committee.

(signed)

“ R. Hudleston,
Secretary.”

“ British Factory, Macao, 20th May 1831.

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 20th May 1831.

“ Notice by the Select Committee.

“ FROM the disposition which has been recently shown in various acts of the Canton government, the President and Select Committee are under apprehension that British commerce with China cannot be conducted with credit or security while it remains exposed to them. They do therefore, as representatives of the British nation in China, give this public notice, that should the evils complained of remain unremoved all commercial intercourse between the two countries will be suspended on the 1st August next.

“ By Order of the Select Committee.

(signed)

“ H. H. Lindsay,
Secretary.”

“ British Factory, Macao, 19th May 1831.”

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 23d May 1831.

WE have received from Mr. Lindsay intelligence of an interview which he held with the Hong Merchants, on presenting them with our address to the Viceroy, Foo Yuen and Hoppo, together with the keys of the Factory. Howqua made the same asseverations to Mr. Lindsay which we have previously recorded, as to his fears of the Foo Yuen, and that the lives of the Merchants would be endangered by

by the presentation of the letter. He further stated, that the address from Mr. Daniell and Mr. Smith was still in their possession, from a similar cause. Mr. Lindsay very properly informed them, that on a point of public duty he must be imperative in requesting that all the letters be forthwith conveyed to the parties for whom they were addressed, or that we should be under the necessity of sending them to the gates of the city. We should regret the necessity of such an alternative; but as it is possible that we may be compelled to resort to it, we shall be prepared to do so. It is of great importance that no further delay should ensue from the fears of the Hong Merchants in opening a communication with the Foo Yuen; and Mr. Davis having offered to take charge of the letters, we have gladly availed ourselves of his services in such an event. We shall await a further report from Mr. Lindsay before we come to any determination on the subject.

(signed) *Charles Marjoribanks,*
J. F. Davis,
J. N. Daniell,
T. C. Smith.

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 24th May 1831.

THE season for the departure of vessels from hence to India has now passed, and little probability exists of an opportunity to transmit our despatch to the Supreme Government, which it is so highly important should reach India as soon as possible, with a view of providing against delay in the ensuing season. There is no vessel now in China whose destination is for India; and the "Red Rover" has not been heard of as having quitted Calcutta, even should the report be correct that she will return shortly after her arrival here. Under these circumstances, we view the cost of chartering a ship for India as so trifling, when compared with the possible consequences of delay in our commercial proceedings, that we have resolved to take up a small vessel called the "Austen," to carry our despatches to the Supreme Government. We have communicated with the captain on the subject, and he declines to undertake the voyage for a less sum than 4,000 dollars. As the season is now adverse, and his voyage will probably occupy two months, we do not think the terms too high, and have therefore agreed to charter her, specifying that she is to sail from China by the 1st of June, not to touch at any intermediate port, and to obey implicitly such directions as we shall deem it necessary to give him.

We have received further accounts from Canton, which do not encourage the idea that our letters to the Foo Yuen will reach that officer. The Merchants are extremely averse to appear before him as the bearer of them, for fear of their lives, which they continue to think would be in danger; and Mr. Lindsay informs us that he understands the Foo Yuen declares that he will not receive any foreign petition whatever. The Merchants have however received the letters from Mr. Lindsay, and we trust they will venture to deliver them.

It appears that the Company's Hall has been daily prepared for the reception of the Foo Yuen, to inspect the execution of his orders for the destruction of the premises, and should he arrive while Mr. Lindsay is in Canton, he has received our directions to avail himself of the opportunity to deliver a copy of our address into his hands.

(signed) *Charles Marjoribanks,*
J. F. Davis,
J. N. Daniell,
T. C. Smith.

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 26th May 1831.

WE hear with considerable regret that the Hong Merchants, actuated, we believe, by fear of the Foo Yuen, have been treating us with great duplicity, in regard to the delivery of our communications to the government. Mr. Lindsay has discovered, under the injunction of secrecy from Mingqua, that in several instances, when they have reported themselves to have been in the city, endeavouring to expedite their presentation through the Hoppo, or at the office of the Foo Yuen, that they have remained in their Hong, and have not ventured to appear at all in the business. Mr. Lindsay has therefore demanded the return of the several addresses,

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which he with some difficulty obtained, informing the Merchants that he would retain them for three days, in the hope they would deliver them, but after the lapse of that time that he should take them to the gates of the city, and remain until they were received. The loss of time is much to be lamented, but the date of our several letters will evince the periods at which they were written; and it is just possible that the Foo Yuen may visit the Factory during the additional term of three days granted at the urgent request of Howqua. The Merchants stated to Mr. Lindsay, that the Hoppo had informed them, neither he nor any officer to government would receive any petition whatever.

We have drawn up the following letter to the government of Bombay; the request therein made appears to us a wise precaution in case of necessity. Should we find a cruiser not to be required on her arrival, we can dispatch her back to Bombay, while it is just possible that her services may be highly useful.

“ To the Right Honourable the Earl of Clare, Governor in Council, Bombay.

“ My Lord,

“ We have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a public notice which recent acts of the Chinese government have compelled us to issue to the British community in this country.

“ We are far from expecting any but a favourable result to the existing discussions with the Canton authorities; but in so uncertain and despotic a government as that of China, it is impossible to foresee to what extremities they may carry their present attempt to impose novel and ruinous restrictions on foreign commerce.

“ Under existing circumstances, it appears to us an object of importance to have a vessel temporarily attached to this station, applicable for the purposes of communication with the governments of India, or for general services in China.

“ We should feel greatly obliged to your Lordship to dispatch, with as little delay as possible, one of the Honourable Company's cruisers from the presidency of Bombay, to be placed under our orders in China, should it not greatly interfere with the public service in India.

“ We have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(signed) “ By the Committee.”

“ British Factory, Macao, 26th May 1831.”

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 27th May 1831.

WE record the following Letter to the Supreme Government, in accordance with our Consultations of the 20th instant, a copy of which we forward to Sir Edward Owen, the Naval Commander-in-Chief. We likewise record the sailing instructions to Captain Ladd, and the terms of agreement for the voyage of the “ Austen ” to Calcutta.

“ To the Honourable Sir Charles Theophilus Metcalfe, Bart., Vice-President in Council, Fort William.

“ Honourable Sir,

“ 1. When we last had the honour to address the Supreme Government on the state of our relations with the Chinese authorities, it was our agreeable duty to have to mention that a prospect existed of a period of uninterrupted tranquillity, and to offer our assurances that no means in our power should be wanting to accomplish so desirable an end.

“ 2. It is with much regret we are now compelled to communicate by express that affairs in this country have recently assumed a very different aspect and character, nor are we conscious that any exertions in our power have been left untried to avert or to mitigate the evil.

“ 3. During the course of the past season a Hong Merchant was seized and imprisoned by the Canton government, his alleged crime being his ‘ traitorous connection ’ with the English.” His connection with Foreigners was purely of a commercial character. His dealings, conducted according to the established laws of the empire, were extensive; and, by being one of the most industrious, he had become one of the most prosperous of the body to which he belonged. We were deterred from remonstrating against his unjust imprisonment by the apprehension of his

his relations, that our doing so would probably precipitate his execution, from the ignominy of which, or at least of perpetual banishment, he was lately relieved by death while under the most rigid confinement. Painful as such a circumstance necessarily became to our feelings, yet being resolved to sacrifice all individual or personal consideration when such could possibly be done without injury to the public service, we abstained from exciting the irritation of the Chinese government, by addressing on the subject of this melancholy and, we believe to it, embarrassing event. In placing the strictest restraint upon our feelings by passing over this occurrence in silence, we were conscious at the same time that a blow had been inflicted of the most serious nature on the credit and security of our commerce.

“ 4. Our commercial transactions of the season terminated with tranquillity. Such addresses as we transmitted to the Chinese authorities were received with attention, and since our residence at Macao no opportunity has been omitted of cultivating the courtesies of life with the local Mandarins, several of whom have paid visits of civility to the President. Under such circumstances, we were but little led to expect the recent occurrences in Canton.

“ 5. On the 12th instant the Foo Yuen and Hoppo, who are, in the absence of the Governor, the principal officers of the province, accompanied by a numerous body of armed attendants, landed at the British Factory without any previous intimation of their intentions, and took possession of the public hall. Our Factories have hitherto been considered safe against such intrusion, without notice previously given. The covering was torn down from His Majesty's Picture, which their Excellencies deemed proper to treat with the most marked disrespect. The senior Hong Merchant was summoned into the hall, threatened with immediate imprisonment and death on account of his connection with the English, and compelled to remain for upwards of an hour upon his knees. The senior Chinese Linguist, for the same alleged cause, was thrown into chains and ordered for execution, which was remitted for imprisonment principally on the intercession of the Hoppo. The outer gates of the Factory were pulled down and broken to pieces. The quay on which goods are landed, built by the express sanction of the Governor of Canton, has been completely destroyed; the trees in front of the Factory uprooted, the ground generally laid waste, and the greater part of it dug up and thrown into the river.

“ 6. We have received intimation that these are only the commencement of proceedings of a similar character; and a proclamation has since been issued in the name of the principal authorities, containing several enactments of the most vexatious kind;—amongst others, the prohibition of Foreigners going out of the doors of their Factories, without special permission previously obtained; the interdicting the employment of native servants; the ordering the punishment of those at present employed, and the appointment of a guard of soldiers to ships at anchor at Whampoa. We abstain from attempting to characterize these proceedings; indeed, from their commencement, we have resolved to refrain from anything like the expression of angry feeling, but to let every measure we are compelled to adopt be the result of calm and mature deliberation.

“ 7. We are at a loss to account for these acts of the Chinese government. In some measure they must be attributed to the discussions of 1829-30; but a resolute and systematic determination is now formed to reduce Foreigners to the lowest and most restricted possible condition, and against which we have only the alternative left of tacit acquiescence, or of temperate, yet firm remonstrance and resistance.

“ 8. In the position in which we were thus most involuntarily placed, we naturally looked around for the most available means of removing or mitigating the evils to which we were subjected. Immediate remonstrance was tried, and failed. Two members of the Select Committee proceeded to Canton, to seek redress from existing grievances; but their application remained unattended to, and the destruction of the Company's property continues, several hundred natives being employed on the work of devastation, and not even intermitting their labours during the night. It then became imperative on us to evince our determination to resist the course which the Chinese government seemed equally resolved to pursue. We addressed the principal authorities in respectful but distinct terms, declaring the impracticability of continuing British intercourse with this country while subjected to such acts, and that unless the evils complained of were remedied, it would be suspended at an early date. The keys of our Factory were at the same time delivered to the Hong Merchants, to be transmitted to the Foo Yuen, stating, that

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having no present power to protect our property, we abandoned it. A simultaneous notice was given to British subjects, that unless the evils which we complained of were remedied, British intercourse with China would be suspended on the 1st of August next. Several copies of the notice accompany our present despatch. By adopting this course, we afford to the Chinese government an ample period for reflection; we bind ourselves to no definitive course of measures; and our objects, we trust, will be accomplished without the sacrifice of those important interests which it is our most anxious desire to protect. It is with considerable satisfaction we find that the Foreign Mercantile Community in China is declaredly in favour of the measures which we have adopted; and what has rarely, if ever, been the case on former occasions, the native public mind has, from several facts which have reached us, evinced its disapproval and regret at the aggressive measures of its government.

“ 9. Having thus exhausted every means in our present power to avert the evils with which we are threatened, we naturally turn to the Supreme Council of India for that powerful assistance which it is capable, and which in such emergency we feel confident it will prove itself willing, to afford us.

“ 10. The fate of all foreign embassies to this country must be well known to your Honourable Board. The connection of Russia with China is of a peculiar character. Portugal, England and Holland are the only other European countries which have sent State Embassies to China. These, though conducted on different principles, and by men of various talents, have all, by whatever spirit directed, whether of abject compliance with degrading requisitions or resistance to assumed supremacy, been equally unsuccessful in the attainment, by means of negotiation, of important objects. The first English embassy was conducted by a man probably of more varied experience than ever filled a public situation. Lord Macartney, in addition to his knowledge of European Courts, had filled the responsible offices of Governor of the Cape of Good Hope and of Madras, and was deemed deserving of being nominated to the distinguished situation of Governor-General of India. Lord Amherst possessed the advantage of having associated with him men of superior talent and local intelligence to what any European Ambassador to China had previously enjoyed; yet both the English Embassies, except we believe in making a favourable impression of the British character, failed entirely in their objects. The Chinese government never will voluntarily receive an Ambassador in the character which we attach to him. This means of redress of grievances may therefore be considered hopeless while our relations with China continue of their present character.

“ 11. In contemplating the possibility of a requisition to the government of China being at some future period imperatively necessary, we, in our advices to the Court of Directors in the past season, expressed our opinion as follows:—

“ As an ambassador, representing a foreign monarch in the capacity of a negotiator, is a public functionary whom the laws of China do not consent to recognize, and as the observances required of him are such as cannot be complied with without the sacrifice of principle, we believe your Honourable Court will remain averse to the repetition of an experiment hitherto ineffectually made by every European power by which it has been attempted; but we are at the same time of opinion, that a firm remonstrance from the British Government against the grievances to which its subjects are exposed would not fail to be attended to. The most eligible form and channel of such a remonstrance would, we believe, be a letter from the Sovereign of England to that of China, delivered at Tien Sing, with instructions to the bearer of the letter, who would necessarily be a person vested with sufficient powers to conclude such arrangements as might arise out of the measure in question. He should be enjoined to abstain from giving any cause of offence, but equally ordered to submit to no species of insult. Such a channel would, we believe, be the only medium through which the grievances of British subjects could effectually be made known to the Imperial Government.

“ 12. The same views which led us to offer this opinion to the Court of Directors now induce us to recommend a remonstrance of a similar character from the Supreme Government of India, addressed to the Governor of Canton.

“ 13. It would be unbecoming in us to advert to the terms in which such a remonstrance should be conveyed, but we feel satisfied they would be characteristic of the relative situation of the two governments. We should suggest the commander of one of His Majesty's ships, as the most appropriate bearer of such a despatch. On occasion of announcing the last embassy, a letter from Lord Buckinghamshire,

Buckinghamshire, then President of the Board of Control, was brought to Canton by His Majesty's ship 'Orlando,' and delivered in person to the Governor by Sir Theophilus Metcalfe, accompanied by Captain Clavel and Mr. Daniell. The presence of one or more of His Majesty's ships in China, on the commencement of the ensuing season, may also be in many respects desirable. We are aware that his Excellency the Governor-General is at present in the northern provinces. We earnestly trust that the decision of the Supreme Government may be formed without the necessity of a reference to his Lordship. Delay might be productive of the most serious injury, as the commencement of our commercial season cannot, without much loss and inconvenience, be deferred beyond the middle or end of October. We further submit for the consideration of your Honourable Board, the propriety of addressing a letter to the Emperor of China, to be had recourse to or not, as may be necessary. In 1816 a letter was addressed to the Emperor by Lord Hastings, to be delivered, should it be expedient, by Lord Amherst. The widely-extended countries which are subject to his government, and their propinquity to the Chinese territories, would afford, we believe, a better prospect of a letter from the Governor-General of British India being received with attention at Peking than one from any of the sovereigns of Europe. We beg further to submit to the consideration of your Honourable Board the propriety of his Excellency the Admiral, or some of the other ships under his command, visiting China, with a view to possible contingencies, which the continued hostility of the Chinese government may create, without any power of prevention on our part. We shall deem it our duty to acquaint his Excellency with the present posture of affairs in this country, that it may be prepared for acting in concert with any suggestions which your Honourable Board may be induced to offer him.

" 14. While we have represented these subjects for your consideration, we beg to renew the expression of our most anxious desire, if possible, to secure a pacific and tranquil state of intercourse with this country; but we should be abandoning our public duty, did we not on this occasion look to every possible result which may proceed from the measures recently adopted by the Chinese government, and their expressed intention to continue to persevere in them. We have seen repeatedly, on former occasions, such ruinous consequences arise from possible events not being previously contemplated and prepared against, that we are at this moment earnestly desirous to place your Honourable Board in possession of our opinions, with the view even to the most serious consequences which may occur from the continued hostility of the Chinese government, and the impossibility of conducting commerce upon the terms which it prescribes; even such terms are not to be relied on, as they vary with the character of every new Governor of Canton.

" 15. Should, therefore, the hostile conduct of the Chinese government precipitate the termination of pacific intercourse with this country, and leave no other alternative than retaliation, we are decidedly of opinion, that with little sacrifice of commercial interests, and without any acts of aggression on the unoffending natives of the country, it would readily be brought to a sense of its own comparative weakness, and an intercourse infinitely more favourable be established to any which Foreigners have hitherto enjoyed. This, we believe, could be accomplished either with or without the acquisition of an independent settlement. In contemplating the possibility of such an event, we offered to the Court of Directors in the past season our opinion as follows:

" The last and most important subject adverted to in the petition is, the possible acquisition at some future period of our independent settlement in China. Such a settlement, we believe, will never be voluntarily conceded; but were an occasion to arise to justify it, and were it considered consistent with English policy, we are of opinion that an insular possession, such as is contemplated, might with facility be gained and maintained. In some confirmation of this belief, we may mention that a naval settlement, if such an expression can with propriety be used, has of late years been made among the islands in the mouth of Canton river, in defiance of Chinese prohibitions. The number of vessels at anchor at Lintin is reported twice during every month, by the native pilots, to the government of Canton, and an extensive and increasing foreign trade is now carried on there under its connivance.

" 16. We conscientiously believe, that every man who has studied the character of the government of China will arrive at a similar conclusion to that above expressed. In the instructions from the Court of Directors to Lord Amherst, when deprecating acts of hostility against China until an occasion arose to justify it, we find the fol-

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lowing opinion expressed: 'But the Chinese would not probably carry their estimate of our magnanimity so far as to expect, that if they were by violence to shut us out from their trade, or by a series of oppressive and vexatious proceedings to force us to abandon it, we should remain perfectly passive under the great losses and privations that must thus ensue; and they cannot but be aware that nothing would be more easy for us than to take possession of their valuable islands to the eastward, particularly Formosa and Loo Choo, which would enable us to intercept the whole of their Asiatic trade, and to carry terror to the neighbourhood of Peking itself.'

" 17. Should a rupture ever take place with the Canton government, we are of opinion that it would be brought to terms with even greater facility than is here contemplated by the Court of Directors. Lord Macartney, and nearly every European writer on the character of the Chinese, has left his opinion strongly recorded to a similar effect. The whole history of our trade with China leads to the same conclusion, and even exhibits numerous instances of acts of undue violence meeting respectful treatment in return from the government, while persons living in obedience to its laws were suffering from severe and unmerited oppression.

" 18. We have thus unreservedly endeavoured to offer to your Honourable Board our candid opinions in respect to every possible event which may arise from the present hostile disposition of the Chinese government. We can only in conclusion assure you, that we have no such anxious desire as to secure a peaceful and tranquil intercourse with this country; our credit, our character and interests depend upon it; but such interests shall never interfere with what we feel to be our public duty, which will now prompt us to avail ourselves of any amicable demonstrations on the part of the Chinese government, but to have our minds at the same time perfectly prepared for its perseverance in that course of measures which it has deemed it expedient so precipitately to commence, and which has been hitherto by us ineffectually resisted.

" We have the honour to be, &c.

" British Factory, Macao,
6th May 1831."

(signed)

" By the Committee."

" To His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Edward W. C. R. Owen, K. C. B.
" Naval Commander-in-Chief in India.

" Sir,

" Being desirous to place your Excellency in possession of the present posture of affairs in China, we beg to enclose a copy of a letter which we have addressed under this date, and transmitted by express to the Supreme Government of India.

" We have the honour to be,

" British Factory, Macao,
26th May 1831."

(signed)

" By the Committee."

" To Captain W. H. Ladd, Commander of the barque "Austen."

" Sir,

" I am directed by the President and Select Committee to communicate the following instructions for your route to Calcutta, which you are required implicitly to obey:

" You will proceed from hence, with all expedition, through the Straits of Sunda, touching at Anjeer for the purpose of landing a packet addressed to the Court of Directors, which you are to deliver to Mr. Casparz, or the assistant resident at that station.

" You are on no account to pass through the Straits of Malacca, or touch at any port on your passage, with the exception of Anjeer.

" Having accomplished your voyage in conformity with these instructions, and delivered to the Supreme Government the despatches with which you are entrusted, you will receive the sum of 8,000 rupees, according to the terms of your engagement.

" I am, &c. &c.

(signed)

" R. Hudleston,
Acting Secretary."

" Macao, 28th May 1831."

" To G. A. Bushby, Esq., Secretary to Government, Fort William.

" Sir,

" I have the honour to inform you that the President and Select Committee have concluded an engagement with Captain Ladd, commander of the barque 'Austen,'

‘Austen,’ to proceed to Calcutta with despatches for the Supreme Government, on the following terms :

“ That the vessel be ready to sail from China on the 1st June, to proceed through the Straits of Sunda, touching at Anjeer, but at no other intermediate port.

“ That on delivery of the packet addressed to the Honourable the Vice-President in Council, Captain Ladd shall be entitled to the sum of 8,000 sicca rupees.

“ The President and Select Committee entertain a hope that the voyage may be accomplished by the 1st August ; and they request that the sum already mentioned may be paid to Captain Ladd on the due performance of the contract.

“ A copy of the sailing instructions issued to Captain Ladd is herewith enclosed.

“ I am directed by the Select Committee to request that the accompanying box packet, addressed to the Honourable the Court of Directors, may be forwarded from Calcutta by the earliest conveyance.

“ I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

(signed)

“ R. Hudleston,

Acting Secretary.”

“ Macao, 28th May 1831.

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 28th May 1831.

THE following Account has been received from Mr. Lindsay, of an interview with the Quang-Heep on the 27th instant :

“ At an early hour this morning I was informed that the Foo Yuen and Heang Ream were coming to visit the Factories ; and troops were stationed at the entrance to China-street at about two p. m. Our Hong was again filled with Mandarin runners, and attendants of various descriptions. I was disappointed to hear from one of the Linguists that the Foo Yuen did not intend coming in person, but had deputed the Quang-Heep. This magistrate is the person always sent to receive petitions from parties at the city gate ; therefore as every object could be attained by the disagreeable alternative within my reach, I determined to deliver the petitions to him. At three he arrived, preceded by the Hong Merchants ; but instead of going up into the hall which was prepared for his reception, he entered the garden, where several people were measuring its length and breadth. I then entered the square, accompanied by Mr. Young and some of the Canton residents. The Quang-Heep was at the water’s-edge, surrounded by the Hong Merchants, examining a plan of the ground. I walked straight to him and addressed him in Chinese to this purport : ‘ I am a member of the British Factory, deputed here to present these petitions, and deliver over the keys of the two British Factories to his Excellency the Foo Yuen.’ And I then placed the petitions and keys into his hands, which he rather reluctantly received, and gave to Howqua. He then addressed me in Chinese, and made a speech of some length, the purport of which was, ‘ that we ought to trade here in peace and quiet ; that the Emperor’s orders must be obeyed, and that he declined receiving the petitions.’

“ Howqua at the same time returned them into my hands. I answered, ‘ that I had never yet heard that it was prohibited to present petitions to the government.’ He replied, ‘ They ought to be presented through the Hong Merchants.’ I then said, ‘ They have already been delivered to the Hong Merchants, and they state that they dare not present them. I therefore place them in your hands, and request that you will forthwith deliver them and the keys of the Company’s Factories.’ He had the plan of the ground, which he was holding in his hand, and I placed the papers on it, so that he had no alternative but to take them. I made a bow to him and retired. After staying about a quarter of an hour in the garden, the Quang-Heep went away without entering the Factories. I have since heard that the Quang-Heep has given back the petitions and keys to Howqua, and says, that *none are to be received*. I do not see what more can possibly be done. This proceeding of the government renders their violation of their own orders and regulations on foreign commerce more flagrant. I have still the original petition to the Foo Yuen in my possession (the one presented to-day was the duplicate received yesterday), and if he comes near the Factories I will deliver it to him. There were at least 30 Mandarin attendants about the Quang-Heep, and I spoke purposely loud enough for every one to hear

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what I said ; besides which, this officer is the very man whose business it is to receive foreign petitions on all extraordinary occasions, and deliver them to the great officers.

(signed) “ *H. H. Lindsay.*”

As Mr. Lindsay appears to have done all in his power towards placing our addresses in the hands of the superior officers of government, but which have been thus thrown back upon us unopened and unattended to, we do not see any utility in that gentleman remaining longer in Canton ; we shall therefore direct him to return immediately ; and we are happy to record our opinion of the zeal, discretion and judgment which he has displayed during his residence in Canton.

(signed) *Chas. Marjoribanks,*
J. F. Davis,
Jas. N. Daniell,
T. C. Smith.

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 30th May 1831.

THE unusual proceeding of the Quang-Heep, in returning the letters delivered to him on the 27th instant, places us in the predicament of not having it in our power to convey directly to the officers of government any remonstrance on the conduct of the Foo Yuen, or the resolution which their restrictive propositions have caused us to adopt. The refusal of the Quang-Heep to present our letters, after the Merchants had declined the office, is a direct violation of the privilege successfully contended for in 1814, and until this time continued ; it is a privilege on which the prosperity and conduct of our commerce hinges, without which it is evidently open to inroad of every description, from the highest Mandarin to the most subordinate person in his establishment ; nevertheless, we have it not in our power to insist upon the maintenance of the privilege at this moment, but we cannot commence our business in the ensuing season without previously obtaining from the Viceroy or the officer acting for him a distinct renewal of the permission to present our addresses through the Hong Merchants, and failing their delivering them, to the proper officer at the city gate. The only course now left for us to pursue, in order to prevent our intentions being misinterpreted, and the grounds on which we are about to proceed being unknown, we have adopted, by drawing up a quiet, temperate notice in Chinese, to be delivered to the Hong Merchants and Linguists in Canton, or through any other channel by which it is probable to reach the observation of the Foo Yuen. It is altogether of an explanatory character, and can only be objectionable to the officer whose interest it is to conceal the violence of his actions, and place our conduct in an incorrect and injurious position to our own interests.

“ Notice.

“ The English President and Select Committee have been compelled, by late occurrences in Canton, to address their Excellencies the Viceroy, Foo Yuen and Hoppo ; but their letters have been refused to be presented by the Hong Merchants ; and the Kwang-Heep, into whose hands they were likewise delivered, has declined to receive them.

“ The English came to China for the purposes of commerce ; they wish to be the friends of the Chinese people ; but their Canton Factory has been attacked, and their property destroyed, while they were living in peace and quietness at Macao. Chinese natives have been chained and punished in their Factories for their connection with them, and new regulations have been attempted to be imposed upon their commercial transactions, to which they never can submit. Public notice has therefore been given, that British intercourse with China will, unless the evils which they complain of be remedied, be suspended at an early date. The English have no other than a feeling of perfect goodwill to the Chinese people, but they never can submit to oppression.

“ 29th May 1831.”

(signed) “ *Charles Marjoribanks,*
J. F. Davis,
T. C. Smith.”

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, 31st May 1831.

To Peter Auber, Esq., Secretary, &c. &c. &c., East India House.

Sir,

THE President and Select Committee have forwarded their proceedings, in the present existing differences with the Chinese government, to England, by way of Anjeer and Calcutta; but information having reached them that an American vessel is sailing for Philadelphia, they direct me to inform you, that perplexing as the present differences in China may appear, they feel confident in an ultimately beneficial result. The Chinese government has so decidedly committed itself as to forfeit even the respect of its own subjects, and the British as well as Foreign mercantile community have expressed their approbation of the measures adopted by the Select Committee. The Court of Directors shall be kept informed by every possible opportunity of the situation of their affairs in China; and with this view I enclose a notice published here for general information, as well as some copies of the Canton Register. The Select Committee further desire me to add, that they feel conscious that temperance and firmness were never more required by them, and that these will continue to be found characteristic of their conduct.

Macao, 31st May 1831.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. Hudleston,*
Acting Secretary.

To G. A. Bushby, Esq., Secretary to Government, Fort William.

Sir,

I AM directed by the President and Select Committee to state, for the information of the Honourable the Vice-President in Council, that they have deemed it advisable, with reference to the intended suspension of British trade at this port, to close the Treasury without realizing the sum remaining due to the Merchants on transactions of the past season, amounting to 319,975 dollars.

Notice was accordingly given on the 30th instant, that no further tenders of cash would be received for bills on the Supreme Government.

I have the honour to enclose a list of bills drawn by the Select Committee, to the date above-mentioned.

Macao, 31st May 1831.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. Hudleston,*
Acting Secretary.

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, 1st June 1831.

SOME resolutions adopted by the British Merchants in Canton have been this day forwarded to us; they evince strongly the sense of the mercantile community on the present disposition of the Chinese government, and the urgent necessity which prevails for the adoption of the proceedings which we have already recorded.

“ Resolutions of the British Merchants of Canton.

“ Canton, 30th May 1831.

“ The undersigned British subjects, resident in Canton, having seen the recent acts of aggression committed by the Chinese on the property of the Honourable East India Company, and witnessed, with deep regret, the cruel treatment and death of an innocent Hong Merchant, on the false charge of traitorous connection with the English, and the Viceroy and Hoppo having now communicated to them a new and objectionable code for the future regulation of the commerce of Canton, they have unanimously resolved,

“ 1st. That the statement published by the President and Select Committee of the grounds upon which they have come to the determination of stopping the trade (should satisfaction for past and security against future aggressions not be granted by the Chinese authorities), enumerates only a part of the vexatious exactions unceasingly made upon European commerce in this country.

“ 2d. That the new code of regulations for foreign commerce, recently submitted to the Emperor for his approval, in place of alleviating, tends materially to aggravate the evils of the arbitrary and obnoxious system under which commercial intercourse with China has been hitherto, with difficulty, carried on. That the

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mere fact of such regulations having been promulgated would not produce much impression on the minds of the undersigned, it being well known that the Chinese authorities issue laws which they never mean to enforce; but when this code, now delivered to all the Merchants in Canton, is joined to the fact of the violent entry of the Company's Factory, the demolition of their property, the gratuitous insult offered to the picture of the King of England, and particularly the refusal of the local government to receive any remonstrances or address from the Honourable Company's servants, a deliberate plan to oppress and degrade British subjects is clearly manifested, to endure which in silence would prove them deserving of even the insults they are exposed to.

" 3d. They therefore feel it their duty to remonstrate with the members of the Chinese government, and to appeal to their own country against yielding to the caprice of the local authorities convinced as they are, that for the ultimate benefit and security of commerce, it were even better to resort to extreme measures of resistance than to render the trade each year more precarious and unproductive, by submitting to increased exactions, national injury, and constantly-recurring petty disputes with the provincial government of Canton.

" 4th. That the refusal of the local authorities to receive any communication from the President and Select Committee, thus preventing all amicable adjustment of existing differences, renders it advisable to adopt the most decisive steps, if Great Britain wish to retain any beneficial commercial intercourse with China; it being apparent, from the whole history of foreign intercourse with this empire, since Captain Waddell with a single merchant vessel, in the middle of the 17th century, took possession of the *Bocca Tigris Fort*, 'till Sir Murray Maxwell in recent times silenced the same fort by one broadside from the 'Alceste,' that firmness, resistance, and even acts of violence have always succeeded in producing a spirit of conciliation, while tame submission has only had the effect of inducing still further oppression.

" 5th. They therefore desire to express their unequivocal approval of the measures lately adopted by the Select Committee, considering them conducive to the general interests of British commerce with this country.

" *W. Jardine,
James Matheson,
A. P. Boyd,
James H. Rodgers,
George Horback,
James Ilbery,
Arthur Saunders Keating,
T. C. Beale,
A. Grant,
R. Turner,
Alexander Matheson,*

" *James Innes,
P. P. Robertson,
W. Harton,
C. Fearon,
John C. Whiteman,
F. Hollingworth,
John Templeton,
H. Wright,
Henry S. Robinson,
J. Henry."*

EXTRACT CANTON CONSULTATIONS, 2d June 1831.

MR. LINDSAY returned from Canton this morning. By him we learn that the *Linguist, Atam*, who was carried away in chains from our Factory on the 12th ultimo, was released on the 31st, after having been punished in prison. We hope that his release may be indicative of some change in the disposition of the Foo Yuen, which may be partly attributed to the public notices we have issued, and the general tenor of our conduct since the 12th ultimo. Although none of our letters have been received by the officers of government, there is no doubt that our intentions must have been intimated to them, as well as the general adverse feeling which is now prevalent in Canton. Our notice in Chinese, which was duly delivered to the Hong Merchants, and placed in conspicuous places in Canton, was, we understand, conveyed to the Foo Yuen early in the morning on which it was made public. Those Chinese who have mentioned the subject speak in praise of the paper, and the benefit which it is probable to effect, by giving publicity to a statement which may be relied on, of the recent occurrences. Mr. Lindsay had an interview with the Merchants on the 31st, subsequent to the circulation of the Chinese notices, when a copy was delivered to each of the Merchants, accompanied with a declaration of regret that the Committee should have been compelled to resort to such an expedient.

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, 4th June 1831.

PRIVATE letters from Canton, dated the 1st, confirm the opinion that a considerable sensation has been created by our Chinese notice. They also state, on what is considered good authority, that the Foo Yuen had sent to the Merchants for the keys and petitions, which he had opened and read, although the Merchants, when questioned, denied the fact.

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EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, 10th June 1831.

Consultation in full Committee.

THE Committee having assembled, the following Edict, received yesterday from Canton, was submitted to the Board :

From Governor Le, dated at Luychow, 22d May 1831. (Received at Macao, 8th June 1831.)

“ Le, Member of the Cabinet, Governor of Canton, &c. to the Hong Merchants.

“ On the 6th day of the 2d moon of the 11th year of Taoukwang (19th March 1831), I united with the Foo Yuen and Hoppo in a respectful Memorial to the Emperor, explaining old regulations, designed to guard against Foreign Barbarians, with modifications thereof, by addition or diminution, according as agreed on in Council.

“ Now, on the 10th of the 4th moon of the 11th year of Taoukwang (27th May), being at Luychow, I received a ‘ Fire’ Despatch from the Military Board, communicated in a letter from the great officers of the Military Council, addressed to Le, Member of the Cabinet and Governor of Canton, and to Choo, the Foo Yuen of Canton, to be enjoined on Chung, the Superintendent of Duties at the Port of Canton.” [The Letter is as follows:]

“ On the 16th of the 3d moon of the 11th year of Taoukwang we received an Imperial Edict:—

“ Le and others have sent a Memorial explaining the old Regulations designed to guard against Foreign Barbarians, and certain modifications, by addition and diminution, agreed on in Council, desiring that obedience to the same may be required, &c.

“ The English Foreign (or Barbarian) Merchants recently solicited a diminution of fees, and on that account delayed entering the port. Again, last year they clandestinely brought Foreign Women to the Factories, and by stealth conveyed muskets and guns to the city of Canton. Immediately after, they themselves came to repentance, and did not persevere to the end in their refractory opposition; but the Barbarians’ disposition being deceitful and crafty, it is absolutely necessary to carry into effect prohibitions and orders with severity, and to give importance to guards set up by old regulations. Present and former circumstances are not the same; and there are things suitable or not, according to the times. The said Governor and others have agreed on certain additions and diminutions to be generally obeyed and maintained, and have ordered civil and military officers, soldiers and police to be faithful and active in keeping a constant search and guard; also the Hong Merchants and Linguists are required to be faithful and trusty in watching and searching to supply checks and control.

“ It is hereby ordered, that the Regulations contained in the eight paragraphs agreed on in Council be carried into effect.

“ The said Foreign Merchants have on former occasions repeatedly opposed interdicts and orders; but since they came of themselves to repentance, let, through clemency, their punishment be waived. But it is absolutely necessary to order them to obey and hold fast the old regulations. How can it be that they will again oppose and transgress! Still, if they be allowed daily to increase in arrogance and insolence in a trifling with and contempt of the laws, in indulging their irregular disposition to perverse refractoriness, and gradually going on to an increased exhibition of their pride and want of self-restraint, what eventually will the appearance of things be!

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“ Let the said Governor and others be strict in enforcing our internal customs, and so eradicate the disturbances of Foreign Barbarians. It is altogether incumbent not to lose the Celestial Empire's respectability in governing; then the management will be supremely good. Take this Edict, and order it to be known. Respect this.”

“ In obedience to the Imperial will, we send forward this letter.”

“ The above coming to me, Minister and Governor, I forthwith issue orders requiring obedience thereto. On my orders reaching the Hong Merchants, let them immediately communicate the orders to the English nation's Foreign Merchants, and to the Foreign Merchants of all the nations, for their reverential obedience thereto.

“ There has been repeatedly disobedience to interdicts and orders; but since the parties themselves came to repentance, let, through clemency, their punishment be waived. Hereafter it will be absolutely necessary to yield implicit obedience to the laws and regulations of the Celestial Empire, and adhere strictly to old arrangements. If again any dare to oppose or transgress, and again create disturbance, then assuredly, in immediate obedience to the Imperial will, a severe scrutiny shall be made, and punishment inflicted. Decidedly there will not be the least clemency or forbearance shown.

“ Tremble at this. Intensely, intensely are these commands given!”

“ Taoukwang, 11th year, 4th moon, 11th day.” (22d May 1831.)

The Merchants' letter is in the usual form, dated 5th June 1831.

Pasted to the above is a copy of the eight paragraphs before translated.

The acts of the Foo Yuen are now justified by the certainty of support from Peking; and the obnoxious code of new regulations, being now issued under the sanction of imperial authority, may be said to have become the legal regulations of the port of Canton. The case has assumed an altered and more decided character, and it now remains for our serious deliberation what measures it is requisite for us to adopt.

Our previously recorded opinions of the absolute necessity of the present system being changed, remain unaltered, and indeed more strongly confirmed than ever; but the question now is, how that point is likely to be most effectually obtained, and by the smallest sacrifice to the interests of the East India Company and the nation.

When we issued the public notice bearing date the 20th May, it was under the idea that we had only to contend with the local government of Canton, who might, on their own authority, redress the grievances complained of. Circumstances are now altered.

Should we again attempt to open a correspondence with the Canton government, they would (if they received our address) instantly appeal to the Emperor's orders, and declare their inability to negotiate. They might, perhaps, promise to make a reference to Peking; but taking into consideration the protracted and temporising mode in which all discussions with this government are conducted, this could only occasion great loss of valuable time, and entail heavy expenses and great commercial difficulties on us, without any reasonable prospect of ultimate success.

We therefore are of opinion, that we shall best consult the deep and valuable interests committed to our charge, by postponing any active measures for obtaining redress until we see the result of our reference to the Supreme Government of India; and we will forthwith issue a public notice, stating that we do not intend to enforce the suspension of trade on the 1st of August. Having come to this resolution, we think it right to do so without delay, in order to remove the feeling of excitement and uncertainty which prevails in Canton among the British mercantile community, who have at the present moment such a deep stake in the hands of the Chinese. The following notice is approved of by the Board:

“ Notice.

“ The President and Select Committee, on the 20th ultimo, gave notice that ‘several recent acts of the Chinese government have compelled them to intimate to the authorities in Canton, that while exposed to them it is impossible that commercial intercourse should continue, and to acquaint the British community that unless the evils complained of were removed, or security against their recurrence obtained, such intercourse would of necessity be suspended on the 1st of August next.’

“ Since

" Since the publication of this intimation, the evils of which they complained have assumed an altered and more decided character, having been confirmed by an imperial proclamation from Peking, directing the most harassing and restrictive regulations to be imposed upon Foreigners, and indirectly countenancing the acts of aggression which have been committed.

" The local officers of the Canton government would therefore, if appealed to for redress, find immediate justification under the sanction of imperial authority.

" The President and Select Committee do not intend to suspend commercial intercourse on the 1st of August next. Their most anxious wish is the establishment of that intercourse upon a firm and respectable basis, which object they feel, under existing circumstances, they will best accomplish by awaiting the result of the measures which they have adopted and the references they have made. They are bound to consult the deep and valuable interests entrusted to them, and in doing so they have made every sacrifice of personal feeling to what they consider to be their public duty.

" Their property in Canton remains in the same state of devastation ; they have received no explanation for the acts of aggression committed and indignities offered, nor any security against their recurrence. The new regulations applied to foreign trade have been confirmed by imperial authority ; and under such circumstances the President and Select Committee regret to state, that while the evils which they complain of remain unremedied, they see no prospect of the uninterrupted continuance of British intercourse with China, or of commerce being conducted either with credit or security. They further offer their recommendation to all British residents in Canton to exert every means in their power to recover such property belonging to them as is at present in possession of natives of this country.

" By Order of the Select Committee,
(signed) " *H. H. Lindsay*, Secretary."

" British Factory, Macao, 10th June 1831."

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 11th June 1831.

THE following Edict has been also received. Mrs. Kierulf is the wife of the commander of a Danish vessel which took in her cargo at Lintin ; she resided in Canton for about a week.

Governor Le, concerning Mrs. Kierulf's visit to Canton. Received June the 8th, dated 16th May 1831.

" Le, Cabinet Minister, Governor, &c. to the Hong Merchants.

" On the 2d day of the 4th moon of the 11th year of Taoukwang, at Luy-chow, I received a statement from the Nan-hae-yuen, mentioning that the Hong Merchant, Howqua, junior, had given information that Skipper Kalun, of the Danish nation, a Barbarian Merchant, having to settle some accounts with another barbarian, had, on the 18th day of the third moon, brought a barbarian wife 'one month' to Canton, and was dwelling in Ewo Factory. The said merchant and others had already given him strict orders on the subject, and he affirmed that his taking her to Canton was a sudden and rash act, arising from ignorance and mistake. But on the 22d day he took the said barbarian woman, and commenced their passage away back, &c.

" On this coming before me the Governor, I examine and find that it has been strictly interdicted to bring females to Canton to reside. Last year the English Chief violated the laws, and brought females, but they were expelled and driven back to Macao ; and I, Minister and Governor, during the second moon of the current year, sent a memorial to the Emperor, stating the old regulations designed to guard against Foreign Barbarians."

[Here he quotes his own recommendations to the Emperor about Foreign Wives and Weileto, &c., which have already been translated.]

" Since the Imperial will has not yet been received, the memorial has not been made known. Now the Danish Skipper Kalun, a Barbarian Merchant, has presumed clandestinely to take his wife to Canton to reside in Ewo Factory, a proceeding extremely audacious and impudent. It would be right, agreeably to the suggestions in the memorial, to stop his trade ; but indulgently considering that the

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said merchant, when he received orders, immediately commenced his passage and went away, therefore, through clemency, a deep scrutiny will be waived.

"Uniting the above circumstances, an order is hereby issued to the Hong Merchants to communicate forthwith my orders to the Barbarian Merchants of all the nations to yield obedience thereto. Hereafter those who come to Canton to trade must yield a trembling obedience to the interdicts of the Celestial Empire. If they bring Foreign Females into the port, they must, according to former laws, land them at Macao to dwell in *Mancoeis* House; they must not presume to take them to Canton. If they dare intentionally to disobey, the moment it is discovered, they will, according to the regulations reported to the Emperor, be sent away in custody to Macao, and the trade of the offender will immediately be stopped. Decidedly not the least indulgence will be shown.

"If the Hong Merchants be unable to give the necessary previous cautions, and to keep up a strict watch, so that the said Barbarians do again carry Females to Canton, then the Senior Merchants, the Security Merchant, the Linguist and the Compradores, shall in a body be severely punished. Positively there will be no bending to lenity. Tremble at this! Intensely, intensely are these commands given."

"Taoukwang, 11th year, 4th moon, 5th day." (16th May 1831.)

The Merchants' Letter accompanying the above is in the usual form.

(signed) 4th moon, 17th day. (28th May.)

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 18th June 1831.

MR. SMITH begs leave to enter the following Minute relative to certain paragraphs contained in our Address to the Honourable Court of this date, in which we have fully explained the measures we have in contemplation.

(Secret Department.)

Mr. Smith begs to record the following Observations :

"With reference to the sentiments contained in the 20th and 21st paragraphs of the letter to the Honourable Court in the secret department, dated 18th June 1831, Mr. Smith is of opinion that the recent violent acts of the Chinese government (in the attack made upon our Factory at Canton, and in the subsequent promulgation of various most restrictive and oppressive enactments, tending to annihilate all foreign trade with China,) are mainly attributable to the circumstance of the removal of the late Committee, whose measures were discountenanced by the government of India, and unsupported by the authorities at home. An impression was thereby made on the mind of the local government, that it could with impunity carry its oppressive acts to almost any extent, whilst, for the sake of the preservation of the trade, their successors would tacitly submit to every insult and indignity.

"Whilst fully concurring in the sentiments expressed in the paragraph already referred to, 'that no act or declaration of the Committee, previously to the attack on the Factory and to the events which followed it, could give countenance to such a supposition,' Mr. Smith has at the same time no hesitation in here according his belief, that the circumstance of the supercession of the late Committee has materially influenced the Canton government in the adoption of its recent measures, in its present hostile disposition towards Foreigners, and in its systematic attempt to impose the most arbitrary and vexatious regulations upon the general foreign trade to China."

"18th June 1831."

(signed) "J. C. Smith."

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 19th June 1831.

By the barque "Red Rover," which sailed this day for Manilla, we forward the following Letters to Calcutta, enclosing a Copy of our Address to the Honourable Court, dated 18th June.

"To G. A. Bushby, Esq., Secretary to Government, Fort William.

"Sir,

"1. The Select Committee have this moment heard that the barque Red Rover will sail this evening for Manilla, which may probably afford a medium of communication

communication with Bengal. I am in consequence directed by them to inform you that no events have occurred since the date of their last advices to the Supreme Government, per Austen, to alter their impression of the very serious situation of affairs bearing upon British interests in this country, but on the contrary, that impression has been more decidedly confirmed.

" 2. The new restrictions imposed upon foreign commerce have recently received the sanction of an Imperial Edict from Peking, which has been officially sent to the Select Committee, and thus supported in its aggressive conduct by the Emperor. The Select Committee discerned that any discussions with the Canton authorities (until fully prepared with the means which they have felt it their duty to suggest to the Supreme Government) would be productive of no useful result.

" 3. The trade will not be, in consequence, suspended on the 1st August. The President and Select Committee have resolved to unload and load the ships of the season, and to act with their minds fully prepared for further indignity and aggression. But on the termination of the season, when the valuable property of the Company as well as of individuals has been rescued, they deeply feel that the time will be arrived when reparation must be demanded.

" 4. I have the honour to enclose a copy of the last address from the Select Committee to the Supreme Government, as likewise a copy of the notice issued by them, informing the public that the trade will not be suspended on the 1st August. I am further directed to inform you that the Select Committee have deemed it their duty to charter a vessel direct for England, in order to put the Honourable the Court of Directors in possession of the very serious aspect which affairs have taken in this country. As it is desirable that the Supreme Government should be clearly informed what are the future intentions of the Select Committee, a copy of their letter on this subject is now forwarded.

" I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) " H. H. Lindsay,
Secretary."

" British Factory, Macao, 19th June 1831."

We likewise address the following Letter to Captain Clifton.

" To Captain William Clifton, Commander of the barque " Red Rover."

" Sir,

" I am directed by the President and Select Committee to request that you will take charge of the accompanying packet to the Secretary to Government, Fort William, and that you will forward the same by any opportunity which may present itself at Manilla for Bengal or the Straits. Should, however, any unforeseen circumstances induce you to proceed from Manilla direct to India, instead of returning to China, you are directed by the Select Committee to convey the packet there on board your ship, and to forward it to Calcutta immediately on your arrival.

" I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) " H. H. Lindsay,
Secretary."

" Macao, 19th June 1831."

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 22d June 1831.

PRIVATE letters from Canton, dated the 19th, inform us of the arrival of the Governor from Haenan; he is expected to make but a short stay in Canton, and then proceed to Peking.

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 30th June 1831.

WE have this day received the following Letter from the Hong Merchants. Our addresses to the Governor, Foo Yuen and Hoppo, recorded on the 19th and 20th of June, were herewith returned unopened, as likewise the sealed packet containing the keys of the Factories:

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“ From the Hong Merchants, dated 26th June 1831, received the 30th.

“ A respectful Reply. During the first decade of the fourth moon (from May 12th to the 21st) we received from the Committee, on two different occasions, documents to be presented to the Governor, Foo Yuen and Hoppo, and a bundle of keys. At that time the Governor had gone to Luychow and Haenan to review the troops. We took the documents addressed to the Foo Yuen and Hoppo, to present them, but were not allowed to do so.

“ On the 11th of the fifth moon (June 20th) the Governor returned to Canton. We then took the documents addressed to the Governor, when we received the Governor's verbal commands thus :

“ The landing-place before the Company's Factories originally belonged to the territory of the *Celestial Empire* ; it was merely the Hong Merchants who erected it, and rented it to the Barbarian Merchants to dwell there. On this occasion his Excellency the Foo Yuen reverently received the *Great Emperor's* orders to take this landing-place which had been built, and destroy it by excavation. Therefore his Excellency the Foo Yuen last month descended in person, and ordered it to be excavated.

“ It is incumbent on the said Chief and others, all in a body, to yield reverent obedience. There is no occasion to present petitions. This is done in reverent compliance with the Imperial will. I, the Minister and Governor, decidedly cannot receive a petition and look it over. It is therefore commanded to take the original petitions, and send them back, and moreover transmit my commands to the Committee, one and all, to yield reverent obedience hereto.

“ We receiving these orders take the six original petitions and the bundle of keys, and send them back, hoping that you will examine and receive them. This is the burden we impose. Writing for the special purpose of replying, with compliments, we are,

(signed) “ *Howqua, junior.*”
(And the nine Names and Ciphers).

“ 3d moon, 17th day.” (26th June 1831.)

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 2d July 1831.

Consultation in full Committee.

THE Committee assembled to consider what notice should be taken of the communication yesterday received from the Merchants. It is with feelings of regret that we perceive, that the return of the Governor has in no way changed the disposition hitherto evinced by the government to treat with contempt all our endeavours for the adjustment of existing differences by amicable negotiation. We are aware that at the present moment we have no means in our power of checking such unfriendly disposition. We cannot however tacitly consent to receive through the Hong Merchants a verbal message of such a nature from the Governor, and therefore return their letter, accompanied by the following note :

“ To the Hong Merchants.

“ Gentlemen,

“ We have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, bearing date 26th June, which we now enclose and return.

“ It is out of the question that we should officially receive communications from you on subjects which appertain solely to the officers of government, more especially when our addresses to them are returned unopened.

“ We are, &c.

(signed) “ By the Committee.

“ *Charles Marjoribanks,*
J. F. Davis,
J. N. Daniell,
T. C. Smith.”

“ 2d July 1831.”

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, the 8th July 1831.

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LETTERS from Canton inform us, that the "Hannah" will probably have completed her lading by the middle of the month; they also state, that in consequence of the demolition of the quay and shoalness of the water, chop boats were unable to approach our premises for the purpose of being loaded with teas from our warehouse, which was therefore done at the public stairs and the Dutch Factory.

(signed) *Charles Marjoribanks,*
J. F. Davis,
J. N. Daniell,
T. C. Smith.

" ADDRESS of the BRITISH MERCHANTS to his Excellency the Foo YUEN of Canton (and the Hoppo.)

" A RESPECTFUL Address from the separate English Merchants, Jardine, Innes, &c., now residing here. British Merchants' Address to the Foo Yuen and Hoppo.

" On the 19th day of the 4th moon of the present year, a Code of Regulations concerning the trade with Foreigners, prepared under the auspices of your Excellency, and submitted for the approval of the Emperor of China, was delivered to us by the Hong Merchants, and we have since received his imperial Majesty's approval of the same.

" Many of these regulations are directly contrary to justice and moral fitness, which your Excellency and the Chinese Empire have hitherto held to be the right rules of conduct, and are so subversive of commerce as actually to strike at the very basis on which it is founded; viz. reciprocal wants, reciprocal advantages and equal freedom. In your report to the Emperor, you state many of them to have gone into desuetude; and from a minute knowledge of trade, which is our profession, we beg to assure your Excellency, that the cause of their having done so is from no relaxation of duty on the part of local officers, but from the impossibility of the co-existence of trade and the enforcement of such regulations.

" On these grounds we consider it a duty as well to ourselves as to our distant constituents who have commercial dealings with this empire, to represent to your Excellency that it is impossible to submit to the proposed code, against which we beg here respectfully but firmly to protest.

" We cannot but complain that the whole tenor of the regulations is unjust and highly offensive to the feelings of Foreigners, in repeatedly accusing them of traitorous intercourse with Natives; an accusation which is notoriously false, and for a refutation of which we need only refer to the regulations themselves, in which it is admitted that we 'have remained at Canton for many years, transacting business with mutual tranquillity.'

" In these regulations it is stated, that 'the Hong Merchants are to govern and controul Foreigners,' who are 'not to be allowed to remain at Canton to find out the price of goods, to make purchases and acquire profit, nor of their own accord to go in and out of the Foreign Factories.' We have always understood that Hong Merchants were appointed for the purpose of carrying on commercial dealings with Foreigners on fair, liberal and honourable terms, and it is quite incompatible with this object that either of the contracting parties should be under the orders of the other, since commerce cannot be carried on unless when the buyer and seller are able to treat on a footing of equality. Moreover, it is completely at variance with the ancient practice of the Chinese Empire, which permitted Foreigners to enter the city for the purpose of communicating personally with the Mandarins on affairs connected with trade and the government of Foreigners.

The ground on which the Factories in Canton are built, within which we live, is the property of the Hong Merchants, by whom they are let to us at an annual rent, and for the time we so hold them we are justly entitled to protection for ourselves and our property. In former times it was the custom for armed sailors to come up from Whampoa for the purpose of protecting these Factories, but many years of entire protection of property by the vigilance of the government has put this practice into disuse. Moreover, in the year 1814 the Governor guaranteed the inviolability of the Foreign Factories. Now, a recent attack on the property and Factories of the

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English East India Company, which was not only a breach of the engagement so made but an act of absolute hostility, has destroyed the confidence we felt, and proved to us that the Hong Merchants have not the power to protect us. Unless this outrage be redressed, we shall, most unwillingly, be compelled to resort to the old and troublesome custom of bringing up armed sailors for our safety.

" In article 8, of the Code of Regulations, your Excellency is pleased to prohibit us from approaching in numbers to the city gate for purposes of petition. We beg to observe, that the right of Foreigners to present petitions at the city gate is established by old custom. Our reason for going thither in bodies of more than one or two is for protection against the violence of the police officers and soldiers at the city gate, who have the audacity to attack those coming for justice to your Excellency with abuse and even blows.

" We in the most respectful yet earnest manner approach your Excellency, with the strongest hopes of redress of grievances and future protection of property. We ask of your Excellency things strictly consistent with the reciprocal rights of friendly nations engaged in commercial relations; and we protest and appeal to the Emperor against the adoption of rules which would certainly make life miserable and property insecure.

" *W. Jardine,
James Matheson,
James H. Rodgers,
George Horback,
James Ilbery,
A. S. Keating,
Alexander Matheson,
T. C. Beale,
R. Turner,*

" *James Innes,
W. H. Harton,
C. Fearon,
John C. Whiteman,
F. Hollingworth,
John Templeton,
H. Wright,
Henry S. Robinson."*

" The Foo Yuen's Reply to the Address of the British Merchants.

The Foo Yuen's
Reply to the
British Merchants'
Address.

" CHOO, Acting Governor and Foo Yuen of Canton, to the Hong Merchants.

" A petition has now been received from the English private Merchants, Jardine, Innes and others, saying,

[Here follows a Copy of the Remonstrance.]

" This coming before me the Foo Yuen, I have examined the subject, and decide as follows: Barbarians of all nations who come to the open market at Canton to trade ought to yield implicit obedience to the interdicts and orders of the Celestial Empire. But the said nation's Barbarian Merchants some time ago, in consequence of seeking a diminution of charges, procrastinated and delayed entering the port. They also clandestinely brought Foreign Females to reside in the Factories, and by stealth conveyed muskets and guns to Canton. These doings were really criminal acts of opposition.

" Soon after this the Minister and Governor Le stated to his Majesty the old regulations, together with some modifications which were decided on in Council, and solicited and received an imperial order, directing that Barbarians, after they had completed the sale of their goods, should not remain in Canton to find out the prices of commodities and form connections with the Natives. The object was to make the Hong Merchants responsible for the controul of the Barbarians, and to prevent their bringing Foreign Females, guns and arms to Canton; also to disallow taking many persons to present a petition. Of all these regulations now enacted, most of them, from length of days, had become the usage, and all the Barbarians of the several nations knowingly obeyed and adhered to them.

" Now these Barbarian Merchants alone presume to say that these regulations and commerce cannot go on together, and that the controul of Hong Merchants does not agree with old usage, and in a whining manner dun with their petitions. Going thus far is already false and wild. But they proceed to talk about an abrupt entrance into the Company's Factory a few days ago.

" I, the Foo Yuen, during the first decade of the fourth moon, went in person to the Company's Factory to examine and manage an affair. That Factory is on the ground

ground of the provincial city, and is under my jurisdiction. Not only will I go in person, but if the said Barbarians audaciously presume to act irregularly, without due fear, I will, as I ought, also take troops with me, and open a thundering fire upon them. I will do so without feeling the least possible anxiety or regard to consequences.

“As to what is said about the Barbarians going to the city gate with petitions, and the soldiers for no cause chastising and abusing them, it is still more unreasonable. That which they affirm in their petition is manifestly to gloss over a falsehood.

“To sum up the whole. Of late many of the Barbarians of that nation have understood what was proper, and there are not a few also of such as Jardine and Innes. There is no doubt that their conduct arises from the adulation and flattery of the Hong Merchants, together with the mischievous suggestions of Linguists and Compradores, with whom they are connected.

“If they (Jardine, &c.) do not reform themselves, they will most certainly become the injured (or ruined) victims of those people.

“Uniting the above circumstances, I hereby issue an order to the Hong Merchants to proceed immediately and rigorously enjoin the Barbarian Merchants, Jardine and others, that hereafter they must, as they ought, implicitly obey the regulations now established. Let them quietly keep in their own sphere, and carry on trade and barter. If they again dare intentionally to disobey the orders of government, and indulge themselves in making confused (or false) statements, then decidedly there shall be an immediate and severe infliction of reprehension and expulsion; and I will take the Hong Merchants who did not keep them under strict controul, and the Linguists and Compradores who taught and instigated them, one and all, and punish their crimes with a heavy hand. Positively there shall not be the least clemency or forgiveness shown. Tremble at this. A special Edict.”

“11th year, 6th moon, 4th day.” (12th July 1831.)

“Chung, the Hoppo, in reply to the British Merchants' Remonstrance.

“CHUNG, by Imperial appointment, Commissioner of Customs at the port of Canton, &c. &c. to the Hong Merchants. The said Merchants have presented a foreign petition in Chinese characters from the English private Merchants, Jardine and others, in which it is stated,

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[Here follows a Copy of the Remonstrance.]

“This coming before me, the Hoppo, and being authenticated, I have examined and find, that from the time the English first came to Canton to trade, till now, a period of more than 100 years, they have, while looking up and beholding the (imperial) virtue and majesty, been hitherto called respectful and obedient; but in the 24th year of Keen lung (1759) a Foreign Merchant of that nation, Hung-jin-hwuy, (the Chinese name given to Mr. Flint), having listened to and followed the seducements of a Chinese traitor, Lew-a-pien, presumed to oppose and violate the prohibition and orders. The imperial will was received to keep Hung-jin-hwuy in close confinement at Macao, and to execute Lew-a-pien. In consequence of this, the then Governor Le presented for the Imperial decision five regulations for restraining and guarding against outside Foreigners, which were established to be obeyed and kept.

“This year the Minister and Governor Le, considering that present and former circumstances are different, made modifications of the same; and, having formed them into eight Regulations, he drew up in Council a Memorial, laying them before the Emperor; and the Imperial will has already been received sanctioning them. The said Foreign Merchants ought to keep implicitly the established usages, and peaceably continue their trade.

“Lately the English private Merchants, Jardine, Innes and others, have presented a petition, stating that the whole scope of the regulations is at variance with the principles of justice, thus whiningly disputing and contradicting; and also requesting to appeal to the Emperor not to permit their being put in practice. This is extreme insolence and opposition.

“The Celestial Empire, in cherishing tenderness to distant Foreigners, has constantly stooped to show compassion; but between the flowery Chinese and Barbarians there doubtless is a settled distinction; between those within and with-

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out there must be established a grand barrier. The dignity of the Great Emperor requires obedience and severity. How can the Foreign Merchants of every nation be suffered to indulge their own wishes in opposition to and contempt of the laws?

"Now, as to the subject on which Le, the Minister and Governor, presented a memorial, a severe imperial Edict has been received, ordering them to be put in practice. If the said Foreign Merchants wish to disobey, they will not be disobeying Le, the Minister and Governor, but they will be daring to disobey the will and commands of the Great Emperor.

"Thus, Foreigners are not allowed to bring with them to the Foreign Factories at the provincial city sailors and guns. This is a regulation long since established, and not a prohibition first made by the Minister and Governor Le. How can the said Foreign Merchants, in their intercourse with the country, have been ignorant thereof? But last year they clandestinely brought up cannon, and afterwards repenting, immediately took them back. The Great Emperor, whilst extending indulgence to the past, utterly prohibited it for the future. This was liberality equal to Heaven's. But now they make a pretext of defending their property, and wish to bring up (arms) again as formerly. Is it not the fact that their minds are bent on perverse opposition, and thus by their own act they put themselves beyond the means of subsistence? Since the said Foreigners know how to defend their property, how is it that they cannot consider the stoppage to trade and the entirely cutting off of the means of gaining a subsistence, and on the contrary take a course which will destroy their property?

"Moreover, the affairs of the English Company have all hitherto reverted to the Chief's controul. At present the said Chief Marjoribanks is profoundly intelligent, and acts with great propriety. The said Jardine, Innes, and the others are merely private English Merchants, and are not at all comparable to the Company. How can they act thus irregularly, and dun with their requests? The petition is in its phraseology proud and wilful; in its language it is confused and entangled; and in its words and ideas there is much that is not clear and perspicuous. But I indulgently consider that they do not understand proper forms and decorum; and at the same time I do not regard it worth while to enter into a minute examination and refutation of them.

"But those who knock head at the gate of the market, and solicit commercial intercourse, must obediently keep the royal regulations. How can those who cross the seas to trade and export be suffered to act disorderly and create disturbance? If the said private merchants really regard their property, they ought indeed to trade on as usual; but if they dislike the restraint imposed by the orders of government, and consider their own private affairs to be disadvantageous, the said private Merchants may entirely withdraw their trade, and not trouble themselves to come from a great distance through many countries of different languages. Why cause suspicion and impediments to all the merchants, and occasion much talking?

"Uniting these things, I forthwith issue this order. When it reaches the Hong Merchants, let them immediately take the contents of the reply made by me, the Hoppo, and enjoin them on the said nation's Chief, that he may know and act accordingly, and continue to keep Jardine, Innes, and the others under strict restraint, not allowing them to create disturbance, and again dun with petitions. Intensely! intensely are these special orders issued."

"11th year, 6th moon, 5th day." (13th July 1831.)

"MINUTE by the GOVERNOR-GENERAL, referred to in Letter to the Select Committee in China, dated the 13th January 1832.

Minute by the
Governor-General,
referred to in No. 4.

"THE Select Committee at Canton, in their Despatch of the 11th January, have called upon the Government, as 'the Supreme Representative of British power in the East,' for their assistance in protecting the commercial interests of the East India Company in China; and have requested, 1st, that we will address a Remonstrance direct to the Emperor, *via* Nepâl; 2dly, that we will solicit the Admiral commanding the naval forces in these seas to dispatch four men-of-war to Canton.

"The avowed objects of these two measures are to repress within bounds the encroaching spirit of the Chinese local authority, to impress the conviction that their

their unwarrantable oppression will not be submitted to, and at the same time to give additional weight to the representations of the Select Committee, by publicly showing that they have the protection of the Sovereign of Great Britain, while the ships might be employed in enforcing their orders for the suspension of all commercial intercourse by the British trade of India with China.

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“ The measures here proposed for our adoption involve not merely an interference in affairs which have been entirely separated from our authority, but demand also a degree of responsibility, which nothing but the clearest conviction of the necessity of the case could authorize us to assume. It was incumbent upon the Select Committee, when asking our support to proceedings of so novel a character, and pregnant with consequences of such extreme magnitude, to have laid before us all the information which, as perfect strangers to the affairs of China, we necessarily require for our own satisfaction and guidance. It could hardly have been expected that we should have pledged the character and consideration of this Government by a public remonstrance, without a thorough understanding of the question under discussion, and without a complete developement of the data upon which the calculation of failure or success must have been founded.

“ The only despatches received from the Select Committee are dated the 21st of December and the 11th and 19th January. It is in the letter of the 11th January that the Select Committee communicate their causes of complaint against the Chinese local authority, and their having had recourse to the suspension of the trade as the only means of obtaining redress. This statement has nothing to support it but the mere authority from whence it proceeds. It is not accompanied by any documents. The correspondence with the Viceroy is not transmitted; and though I know from a private letter from Mr. Plowden, the President of the Select Committee, that he has not concurred with his colleagues, his dissent, a document of the utmost importance, which would have put us in possession of the other side of the question, has been entirely unnoticed.

“ It is quite clear, that upon the point of the reduced number of Hong Merchants, and upon the non-performance of their engagements, the Select Committee and the Merchants in general have a strong case of grievance. There are other points also, no doubt, which require correction. But wholly unacquainted as we are with the manner in which the business between the Factory and the Hong Merchants is conducted, as well as with the politics, interests and feelings both of the subordinate Chinese agents at Canton, and of the Imperial Cabinet of Peking, it is quite impossible for us, without much more explanation than the despatch of the 11th of January affords, to comprehend the whole subject, or rightly to appreciate the grounds upon which the Select Committee have acted.

“ It was important that we should have been made acquainted with the following facts:

“ 1. In what manner and to what extent the interests of the East India Company were affected by the present state of things, and whether the evil was of that vast and pressing nature as not to admit of the delay of a reference.

“ 2. In what degree the withdrawal of the trade would affect the private interests of the Viceroy, and the revenues of the State; how far the intended recourse of Mr. Elphinstone to the same measure had influence over the determination of the Viceroy; and how far that intended act received the sanction of the Court of Directors.

“ 3. What reason is there to suppose that the representations of the Supreme Government will have more effect than those of the Select Committee? On what grounds is it now concluded that the cautious policy of not admitting ships of war, and of excluding all possible chance of collision or cause of offence, hitherto so successfully pursued, and in a very recent instance strongly recommended by a preceding Select Committee, is erroneous and unnecessary? And above all, what is the foundation of the security that this bolder measure of intimidation by a remonstrance from the supreme power in India, backed by a naval force of His Majesty, will ensure success? And, in the event of failure, it would have been satisfactory to have been informed in which manner a safe and honourable retreat might be effected.

“ To supply in some part the omissions in the correspondence of the Select Committee, I have to lay before the Board extracts of two private letters I have received from Mr. Plowden, dated the 16th and 24th January, describing the different view taken by him of the conduct of the Chinese authorities, and express-

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ing his dissent from the opinions and measures of his colleagues. It is impossible for me to estimate the force of the facts and reasons, because we are unacquainted with them, which induced the majority of the Select Committee to reject the course recommended by Mr. Plowden, which, apparently, reason, moderation and policy would so strongly dictate. I do not, therefore, pretend to judge the conduct of the Select Committee; but at the same time it is difficult to understand what objection there could have been, before proceeding to extremities which might place the best interests of the Company and of the State in jeopardy, to have awaited a reference to the home authorities. As the case now appears, we have engaged in the contest under a combination of the most adverse circumstances.

“ Mr. Plowden, in his letter of the 24th January, expresses an opinion that the Chinese Government will persevere in their resolution; and the application of our Select Committee for our assistance would seem to infer on their part a doubt of the success of their measures. It is impossible not to contemplate a continuance of the present suspension of the China trade for any long period, as one of the greatest calamities that could befall both the East India Company and the nation; and it is undoubtedly our bounden duty to afford our best aid and endeavours to re-establish this great source of revenue and comfort to Great Britain.

“ My opinion of the inexpediency of the two propositions of the Select Committee will have been sufficiently evinced by the preceding remarks. Were measures of intimidation justified by the proceedings of the Chinese government, which appears not to be the case, we, at any rate, uninformed as we are, could not lend ourselves, without the sanction of our superior authorities, to so radical a change of the peaceful policy hitherto invariably and successfully followed, which has carefully abstained from all display of power, and thus strictly adhered to the maintenance of the simple character of a commercial factory. But I am of opinion that the restoration of the trade may be easily effected through the mediation of the Supreme Government, and that the interposition of an authority supposed to be superior, and as no party to past proceedings, may both save the Select Committee from the humiliation of a retreat, if such should be eventually necessary, and be equally acceptable to the Chinese government, who, whatever may be their assertions, cannot be indifferent to the continuance of so lucrative a traffic. The advantage of this course will be, that, in the event of failure, no additional object will have been thrown in the way of such measures as the authorities at home may think fit to adopt. After the call that has been made upon us by the Select Committee, and the obvious difficulty of their situation, I cannot but calculate on a ready disposition on their side to listen to our advice; but it will be proper to provide for an opposite contingency. The importance of the occasion requires that we should depute upon this service an officer of the highest consideration. The offer of Sir Charles Metcalfe to undertake this mission leaves nothing to be wished for upon this point, and will be received with equal gratification by the council and the home authorities. His name is not unknown in China, and I anticipate from the Select Committee that willing attention to his opinion which his reputation so strongly invites. I annex a draft of the instructions which I propose to be given to him, and which will render it unnecessary for me to extend the limits of the present Minute.

“ 3d April 1830.

(signed)

“ *W. C. Bentinck.*”

P A P E R S

RELATING TO THE

AFFAIRS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

1831-32.

(*Mr. Hyde Villiers.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
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Papers relating to the affairs of the East India Company, 1831 - 1832

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